



# The Reel

**rscds**  
London Branch

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Scottish country dancing -  
For fun, fitness and  
friendship

Issue 309

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SEPTEMBER TO NOVEMBER 2019



*The Reel* Editorial Team (TRET) aka Meryl Thomson, Ian Thomson and Stephen Webb, (Edward Bunting was unable to attend) met up with new London Branch chairman, Jim Cook to discuss policy and magazine forward direction in the reassuringly appropriate railway oriented surroundings of The Metropolitan Bar, Baker Street, (4 July 2019).

Catriona Stewart and Anna Twinn dancing *Napier's Index* at the London Branch Summer Wednesday Dance at St Columba's Church, Pont St, (29 May 2019).

## Forthcoming Branch Dances

### New Season Dance

Saturday 21 September 2019

7.00 - 10.30pm

Doors open at 6.30pm

St Columba's Church, Pont Street  
SW1X 0BD

Strathallan

Mrs Stewart's Jig ..... 8x32 J  
The College Hornpipe ..... 8x32 H  
The Gardeners' Fantasia ..... 3x32 S  
Vintage Simon ..... 5x32 J  
The Lammermuir Hills ..... 8x32 S  
The Countess of Dunmore's Reel ..... 8x32 R  
The New Rigged Ship ..... 8x48 J  
The Dream Catcher ..... Sq 1x96 S  
The Highlandman kissed his Mother .....  
..... (MMM) 8x32 R

The Starry Eyed Lassie ..... 8x32 J  
Tap the Barrel ..... 3x32 R  
Sugar Candie ..... 8x32 S  
Muirland Willie ..... 8x32 J  
The Bon Viveur ..... Sq 4x32 M  
Catch the Wind ..... 8x32 H  
The Singing Sands ..... 3x32 S  
Quarries' Jig ..... 8x32 J  
Swiss Lassie ..... 8x32 R

Admission includes light refreshments  
RSCDS members £14, non-members £17,  
full time students (with card) and  
spectators £8. All children (under 16) free

All tickets to be purchased (cash only)  
on the door. All dances will be recapped  
Crib available at [www.rscdslondon.org.uk](http://www.rscdslondon.org.uk)

### Autumn Wednesday Dance

Wednesday 23 October 2019

### Christmas Dance

Saturday 14 December 2019



Retiring as Branch Chairman after three years, Margaret Catchick is presented with a large bouquet as a token of thanks by Hon. President Rachel Wilton with current Secretary, Joanne Lawrence and current Treasurer, Simon Wales, (8 June 2019).

## In This Issue

### New Branch People

New chairman Jim Cook shares his first chairman's column (see p2). And we meet Mel Rowland (see p8)

### Want to Improve your dancing and have fun?

Details of our annual Day School (see p5)

### Robert Whitehead at 50

(see p7)

### The Reel Profile

Mervyn Short gives us an insight into his dance deliberations and provides a new dance for The Dance Corner (see p9 and p14)

### The Australian Teachers' Alliance

ATA tell us about their history and aims (see p13)



### The Value of having an International Branch

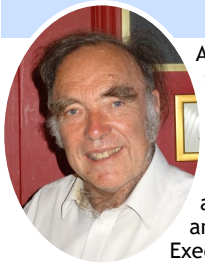
Mike Plumley gives his view in our regular "In My Opinion" column (see p14)

### Letters to The Reel

The Dance Deluge, In Support of Ceilidh Dancing, An Easy Mistake to Make, Royal Tartans, Summer Tuesdays - That Floor (see p16)

Issue 310 will be with UK based members by 30 November 2019 unless delayed in the post. Contributions for that issue should be sent to arrive by and preferably in advance of **Sunday 20 October 2019** by email to [editor@rscdslondon.org.uk](mailto:editor@rscdslondon.org.uk)

The opinions expressed by contributors in *The Reel* do not necessarily reflect the official position of the RSCDS, or of the Branch.



## Chairman's Column by Jim Cook

As the new Chairman of the London Branch, I welcome you all to the new season which will take us into the Branch's 90th Anniversary year in 2020. Our 90th Anniversary attractions were announced in *Reel* 308, but be sure to see the advance announcement on p6 of this *Reel* 309 concerning a new dance needed to be devised for the Branch.

As I come to this position from outside of the Committee, I am on a learning curve and I thank the rest of the Committee for their support and understanding. Thankfully, there is continuity as many of the key Executive Committee positions are unchanged. Also many of the much

appreciated team of helpers, who have volunteered to assist in numerous ways, are continuing. But we also need new blood and I am pleased to welcome Mel Rowland to the Committee. She dances at our Richmond Class.

In future, to permit a logical progression within the Committee up to Chairman, the post of Vice Chairman has now been reinstated and we must now co-opt new blood to this position. Also, two Committee places are vacant and two people need to be co-opted into these positions as well.

Many societies bemoan the fact that volunteers are now difficult to find. Is this due to people achieving their social aims through online social media rather than meeting real people? Groups such as ours thrive because of the dedicated helpers who help with refreshments, sell the tickets, plan events, contribute and publish *The Reel*, and so on. However these groups of helpers need a steady stream of new recruits to spread the workload and ensure that the Branch continues to grow and flourish. So come and help us, meeting the other members in the Branch in the process. Whatever your skills, from tea making to desktop publishing there is a niche for you. However large or small your contribution, please drop me a line and express an interest and we can take it on from there.

As ever, the challenge confronting us is to encourage new and younger dancers to join us. Should you be blessed with being a young dancer, you will have thoughts and ideas. Do not keep them to yourself. Get in touch if you would like to be co-opted on to the Committee where your ideas can be aired. And do not forget that we have a Vice Chairman position to fill. Do not be shy. Make yourself known! But be warned of the addiction. I started dancing when I was 18 years old and 51 years later I am still doing it...And I still do not point my toes correctly!

We must encourage new dancers who come to the Wednesday classes to also come to the Wednesday dances when half term arrives thus putting the theory into practice. If they take that first step, you may see them nervously sitting down at the side probably missing the next dance. If you are an experienced dancer then please invite them. You will be experienced enough to recognise those dances where less experienced dancers can be successfully guided through a dance and you will be rewarded by the look of achievement on their faces.

We all know the debate about the practice of pre-booking dances. Whatever you do, please leave room in your dance programmes for spontaneity whereby you can invite new dancers.

To help things along, at Branch dances, distinctive badges will be issued to experienced dancers who volunteer to act as 'Helpers'. To give confidence, new dancers will be able to approach a 'Helper' if they are hesitant but wish to try a dance. I shall start this experiment with the new season's opening dance on 21 September but it will be more relevant at the Autumn Wednesday dance on 23 October when the classes have their half term break. If you wish to support me in this idea do please drop me a line.

Our 90th Anniversary approaches. Do come and join in but also please consider volunteering to help!

### The Reel Editorial Team News

TRET wishes to thank both Daniel Capron and Katy Sweetman for their work and involvement on *The Reel* over the past years and who have now left the team. Thanks are also given to Gaynor Curtis, Jeff Robertson and Maggie Westley who have and continue to support the team in their respective roles of fulfilment, advertising and distribution liaison.

A big thank you must also go to the many contributors of articles, letters and photographs that have made *The Reel* such an enjoyable and much appreciated magazine in SCD circles.

Finally, TRET are looking for an additional team member who is acquainted with using a computer and is interested in a publishing role (London Branch computer and software available) - if this is you please contact: [editor@rscdslondon.org.uk](mailto:editor@rscdslondon.org.uk)

### Branch Bookstall

With the retirement of Daniel Capron as bookstall manager, we asked for a volunteer to take this on. Sadly none was forthcoming so the Committee has had to rethink how this is managed.

As sales had been reducing over a number of years, with more and more publications and recordings available for download, it was felt that it was probably the best time to wind the bookstall up. Rest assured, members can still order anything they need from HQ, via the website or on the phone, and will still get the same discounts. What remains of the bookstall stock will still be available for purchase at the Day School and some branch dances and will be managed by the Treasurer. Emails sent to the bookstall address will still be dealt with by Daniel in the short term. The Committee would like to thank Daniel, and indeed, all his many predecessors who managed the Branch bookstall so effectively for so many years.

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ROYAL  
SCOTTISH  
COUNTRY  
DANCE  
SOCIETY



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President: Jean Martin

Chairman: Andrew Kellett

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#### Committee

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George Potts, Thelma-Jane Robb,  
Melanie Rowland, Margaret Shaw

#### Sub-Committee co-ordinators

Classes.....Jenny Kendrick  
Dances..... Margaret Shaw  
Publicity ..... Jim Cook/Melanie Rowland

#### Non-Executive roles

Hon. Archivist..... Rachel Wilton  
Day School..... Margaret Catchick  
Family ..... Marjory Reid  
90th Anniversary ..... Margaret Catchick  
Membership ..... Gaynor Curtis  
*The Reel* Editorial Team .....  
..... Edward Bunting, Ian Thomson,  
..... Meryl Thomson, Stephen Webb  
*The Reel* Business Editor.... Jeff Robertson  
Subscribers ..... Maggie Westley  
Webmaster ..... Meryl Thomson

#### Objects of London Branch

To advance the education of the public in the London area in traditional Scottish country dancing, in particular by:

- preserving and furthering the practice of traditional Scottish country dances;
- providing or assisting in providing instruction in the dancing of Scottish country dances;
- promoting the enjoyment and appreciation of Scottish country dancing and music by any suitable means.

[www.rscdslondon.org.uk](http://www.rscdslondon.org.uk)



[www.facebook.com/RSCDSLONDON](https://www.facebook.com/RSCDSLONDON)



@LondonRSCDS



[YouTube.com/RSCDSLONDONBranch](https://www.youtube.com/RSCDSLONDONBranch)



Branch videos are on our YouTube page



# London Branch Matters

## Membership

As a member of RSCDS London Branch you can enjoy the following benefits: reduced rates at London Branch classes, dances and events; four issues per year of *The Reel*; 10% discount on items from the RSCDS shop and two issues per year of the RSCDS magazine *Scottish Country Dancer*. Members wishing to pay by direct debit may now do so by completing a payment mandate either by clicking on the appropriate link in the table to the right of this text (for electronic *Reel* readers) or by going to [www.rscdslondon.org.uk/membership-page](http://www.rscdslondon.org.uk/membership-page). Membership may also be purchased by Credit/Debit Card or PayPal or by cheque payable to RSCDS London Branch by going to the same page. See full details on website. New members should also complete the membership application form on the London Branch website. Membership enquiries and cheque payments should be addressed to the Membership Secretary, Gaynor Curtis, 60 Bishops Wood, Woking GU21 3QB, 01483 721989, [membership@rscdslondon.org.uk](mailto:membership@rscdslondon.org.uk)

The current rates for RSCDS membership through the London Branch are as follows:

Membership category	Junior 12-17 years	Young Adult 18-24 years	Adult 25 years +	Adult Joint (2) 25 years +	2nd Branch	<i>The Reel</i> only
Electronic ( <i>eReel</i> )	£14	£20	£24	£40	£4	£4
<i>The Reel</i> by post (UK)	£16	£22	£26	£44	£6	£6
<i>The Reel</i> by post (Europe)	£22	£28	£32	£56	£12	£12
<i>The Reel</i> by post (Rest of the World)	£25	£31	£35	£62	£15	£15

Paper plus Electronic - As *The Reel* becomes more and more electronically integrated by links to London Branch and others' websites and from time to time videos too it is obvious that those readers that prefer to receive a paper copy of *The Reel* miss out on this electronic connectivity. Therefore, any reader who receives a paper issue of *The Reel* may send their email address to Gaynor Curtis at [membership@rscdslondon.org.uk](mailto:membership@rscdslondon.org.uk) and receive an electronic copy too at no extra charge.

## London Branch Financial Review 2018-2019 by Simon Wales, Branch Treasurer



hand, shown in the Balance Sheet.

At 31 March 2019 the Branch's net worth of £74,632 (2018 £68,485) was represented by the undernoted funds. The value of these funds is supported by the Branch's holdings of investments and cash in

	31 March 2019	31 March 2018
General Fund	£67,779	£61,735
Bill Ireland	£3,794	£3,794
Anniversary Fund	£2,069	£2,069
Andrew Cockett	£0	£887
Wilson Nicol	£990	£0
<b>Total net worth</b>	<b>£74,632</b>	<b>£68,485</b>

### Reserves Policy

The policy for unrestricted reserves is to hold sufficient funds to enable the activities of the Branch to take place in the face of poor income generation in any year. The budget is balanced each year, but some of the spending plans on publicity and youth activities did not take place. This has resulted in an increase in the general reserves. These have also been increased this year by an unrealised gain on investments of £408.

The restricted reserves have been donated for specific purposes and are spent in accordance with the donor's request.

### Results for the year

The accounts show a net incoming resource figure of £6,147 - including an unrealised gain on investments of £408. This also includes planned expenditure from our legacy funds of £887.

Whilst we budgeted for a balanced budget, income was up and costs down in most areas - in financial terms, the Burns' Ceilidh was very successful (although a number of the other dances were not so much) more people started attending classes and the Family Classes were better attended.

We have already decided to make use of this surplus by reinstating live music for all

classes at Park Walk, and by cancelling a planned increase in class fees. Family Classes are being increased to two a month.

### Classes

Fees, less hire of halls, less teachers and musicians' expenses: £14,111 - £9,024 - £7,310 = £2,223 deficit. This is well within budget, and is accounted for by an even spread of losses across all classes. The Day School made a healthy profit of £559 without which the classes deficit would have been £2,782.

### Family Activities

#### (formerly Youth Activities)

Income less expenditure: £300 - £336 = £36 deficit. The class has had better attendance and the hall is remarkably good value. The Anniversary Fund for youth outreach remains largely unspent, and is being earmarked for the relaunch of the family dances and to run more family classes.

### Dances

Income less expenditure: £8,400 - £7,214 = £1,186 surplus, which is way over budget estimates. The Burns' Night Dance did spectacularly well again this year, but the Christmas Dance had high costs which reduced its surplus. Some other dances still attracted too few dancers. The dances held on the half-term Wednesday evening are still proving popular but are not covering their cost.

### Publicity and *The Reel*

The gross cost of publicity this year was £1,772 - and £885 after the Andrew Cockett fund contribution of £887 to the cost of the Open Air Dancing. *The Reel* made a profit of £780 after the apportionment of the Life Members' appeal. This appeal fund is nearly exhausted and will not be available next year.

### Bookstall

This generated a small surplus of £105 and there was no need for further write-offs of old stock.

### Demonstration Team

This appears as 'fundraising activities' ie £1,933 - £1,183 = £750 surplus which is nearly double its budget.

### Administration Costs

The only other figure to comment on is the admin costs of £355, down on last year. This is made up as follows:

Postage, secretarial and other £103, Insurance £123, AGM expenses £29, Examiner £100

Thanks to the hospitality of Peter Knight and Margaret Shaw, there were no costs for Branch Committee meetings this year.

### Donations and Legacies

Donations and legacies raised a further £1,595. Most donations benefited from the tax reclaim from HMRC for gift aid. We also had £210 sundry income as compensation from an ongoing dispute with our bank.

We are very fortunate to have the various bequests which enable us to tackle projects in the knowledge that we have sufficient funds to back them up. Open Air Dancing in Kensington Gardens was funded by the Andrew Cockett donation which is now exhausted, and the Bill Ireland legacy remains largely untouched.

### Membership

Membership income remained steady, and our Branch share of subscription income was slightly up at £2,549. This is mostly because of an accounting change where income is declared for the year it relates to, rather than the year in which it was paid.

Adjustments to the timing of membership subscriptions to HQ has left us with a surplus of £164 in this year's accounts.

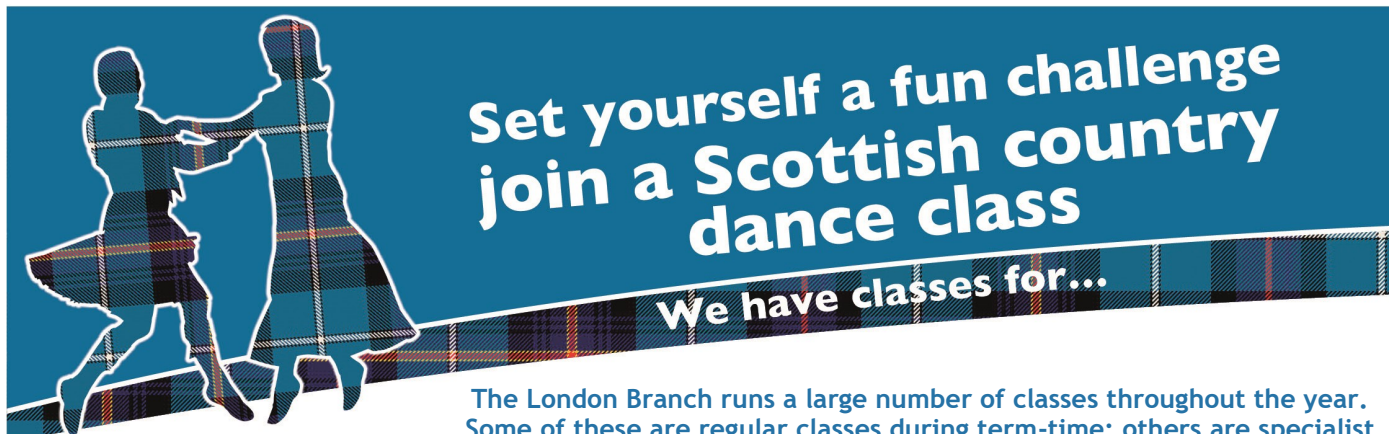
### Investment Income

Investment income from Charifund Units was up, and contributed a total of £2,764 and along with this there was an unrealised gain on the book value of the investments of £408.

Many thanks to fellow officers and convenors, who are always on top of their paperwork and enabled me to keep the accounts on the straight and narrow. As ever, the biggest thanks are due to Robert Elliott, the independent examiner, who does so much to pull these accounts together.

### Ethical packaging

You will have noticed that this issue of *The Reel* (and future issues) has come to you in a slightly cloudy coloured compostable polybag. This has been especially sourced by our printers. The bag should be disposed of either in with your garden waste or with your food waste or used to line your caddy. It meets EU compostability standard EN13432.



The London Branch runs a large number of classes throughout the year. Some of these are regular classes during term-time; others are specialist classes in advanced technique and classes for young people.

## Park Walk Primary School

Park Walk, London SW10 0AY

**Wednesdays** 7.00 - 9.00pm during term time

18 September - 27 November (half term 23 October)

Classes' Christmas Party - 4 December 2019

### Beginners and Improvers

with teacher **Davinia Miln**

An introduction to basic steps and formations for new dancers while supporting improvers to develop their technique and general dancing skills.

### Technique Class for Intermediate and Advanced Dancers

with teacher **Pat Davoll** (1st half term) and **Simon Wales** (2nd half term)

A technique class for dancers who have a good working knowledge of the steps and formations and who are looking to develop their technique, confidence, style and enjoyment of the dance.

Class fee: £7 per night for RSCDS members, £9 per night for non-members. Termly rates available.

Underground: South Kensington, Sloane Square.

Free on-street parking available after 6.30pm (Chelsea match days 10.00pm) in nearby streets.

Buses: 11, 22, 19, 49, 328, 319, 345

No entry into the school permitted before 6.40pm. No smoking or vaping on school premises.

Contact: Jenny - [classes@rscdslondon.org.uk](mailto:classes@rscdslondon.org.uk)  
Musicians **Adam Brady**, **Ian Cutts**, **Sandra Smith**

## St Columba's Church

Upper Hall, Pont St, London SW1X 0BD

**Wednesdays** 2.30 - 4.30pm during term time

Autumn term 18 September - 11 December with half term 6 November

### Mixed Ability

with teacher **Jeni Rutherford**

A social class suitable for dancers with at least some knowledge of basic steps and formations. Visitors welcome.

Class fee: £7 per class to recorded music

For further information contact Jeni at [jenirutherford@virginmedia.com](mailto:jenirutherford@virginmedia.com)

Underground: Knightsbridge, Sloane Square.

Buses: 19, 22, 137, 452, C1

## Richmond

Oddfellows Hall, Parkshot, Richmond-upon-Thames TW9 2RT

**Wednesdays** 7.30 - 10.00pm during term time (beginners 7.30 - 9.00pm, improvers 8.00 - 10.00pm)

18 September - 4 December (half term 23 October)

### Beginners and Improvers

with teacher **Judith Jones**

An introduction to basic steps and formations for new dancers while supporting others to develop their technique and general dancing skills.

Class fee: £6 per class to recorded music Underground/Train: Richmond.

Buses: 65, 190, 371, 391, 419, 490, 493, H22, H37, R68, R70

## Coram's Fields

Band Hall, 93 Guilford St, London WC1N 1DN

**Sunday** 8 December 2019 11.00am - 1.00pm

### Technique Class for Advanced and Very Advanced Dancers

with teacher **Mervyn Short** and musicians **Ian and Meryl Thomson**



A class aimed at advanced and very advanced dancers who are able to perform and execute all steps and formations to a high standard of dancing and assimilate instructions quickly.

Class fee: £9 (RSCDS members) and £10 (non-members).

For details contact Margaret Catchick [classes@rscdslondon.org.uk](mailto:classes@rscdslondon.org.uk) or Jenny Kendrick [classes@rscdslondon.org.uk](mailto:classes@rscdslondon.org.uk)

Underground: Russell Square.

Free on-street parking available.

Note: Coram's Fields is in the **Ultra Low Emission Zone (ULEZ)**.

## South East Dance Diary

The diary on the Branch website is regularly updated. For a hard copy please send a SAE to Caroline Hamilton.

All societies in the South East may submit their functions free for inclusion in the diary.

Email [diary@rscdslondon.org.uk](mailto:diary@rscdslondon.org.uk) or by post to Caroline Hamilton, 31 Boundary Road, Pinner, Middlesex HA5 1PW

## Representing the Branch

The team had another successful season, continuing with the monthly format of classes taught by Mervyn Short, accompanied by Neil Esslemont or Sandra Smith. There were a few performances, as well as appearances at the open air dancing sessions in Kensington Gardens, and Dance Around the World at Cecil Sharp House.

The aim of the team is to represent the Branch and to present the joys of Scottish country dancing to a wider audience - it is not just about competitions or showing off intricate footwork to the cognoscenti!

To this end we are looking for more volunteers of a competent standard to join the team, benefit from superb teaching, and be prepared to volunteer for events in and around London - we even have the occasional weekend trip to festivals such as the one run by Leeds Branch. The class fees contribute to the costs, but expenses are available for performances.

The classes are in the Upper Hall of St Columbas from 7.00 - 9.00pm on 17 September, 22 October and 19 November.

Please contact Elaine Davies on [demteam@rscdslondon.org.uk](mailto:demteam@rscdslondon.org.uk) if you are interested or would like more information.

## Families in London Dance Scottish

The Family Scottish Dancing Class will take place at Fresh Ground Church of the Nazarene, 68 Battersea Rise, London SW11 1EQ [www.freshgroundlondon.com](http://www.freshgroundlondon.com)

**Saturdays** 10.30 - 11.45am  
7 and 21 September, 12 October, 16 November, 7 December 2019

Café available on the premises for refreshments

With teachers **James Fairbairn** and **Jenny Kendrick**

Class fee £5 each/£10 family

Railway station: Clapham Junction

Please invite your friends and family to come along and have a go.

For more information see the [Branch website](http://Branch website) or please follow our [Families in London Dance Scottish](http://Families in London Dance Scottish) Facebook page. For further information please contact Marjory at [classes@rscdslondon.org.uk](mailto:classes@rscdslondon.org.uk)





# RSCDS London Branch Day School and Musicians' Workshop

Saturday 19 October 2019

St Helen's School, Eastbury Road, Northwood, Middlesex HA6 3AS

## Teachers



Kate Gentles



Antoine Rousseau



Samantha Schad



Rachel Shankland



Ian Muir (Prestwick)

This year the classes will be Very Advanced, Advanced, Mixed Ability and Improvers levels:

**Very Advanced** - Applicants must be able to perform and execute all steps and formations to a very high standard of dancing. They must also be able to illustrate good phrasing, handing and covering and be able to assimilate instructions quickly, sustaining a high level of performance throughout the class.

**Advanced** - Applicants must be very good dancers with a sound knowledge of all steps and formations and be able to execute them accurately. In addition, dancers should possess quick powers of assimilation of instruction and be able to maintain a good level of performance throughout the class.

**Mixed Ability** - Applicants should have a good standard of dancing and a sound knowledge of steps and formations and be looking to improve their personal technique.

**Newcomers & Improvers** - Applicants should have knowledge of basic steps and formations and be looking to improve on this.

## Musicians



Barbara Manning



Ken Martlew



Sandra Smith



Ian and Meryl Thomson

## Day School Programme

Time	Activity		
10.00 - 10.30	Enrolment and coffee		
10.30 - 12.30	<b>Class</b>	<b>Teacher</b>	<b>Musician</b>
<b>Morning session</b>	Very Advanced	Antoine Rousseau	Sandra Smith
	Advanced	Rachel Shankland	Ken Martlew
	Mixed Ability	Kate Gentles	Barbara Manning
	Newcomers & Improvers	Samantha Schad	Ian & Meryl Thomson
	Musicians' Workshop	Ian Muir (Prestwick)	
12.30 - 2.00pm	A lunch may be purchased comprising a baked potato or rice with a choice of fillings and dessert. Alternatively, there are facilities for packed lunches or pubs and cafés in the local area.		
<b>Lunch</b>			
2.00 - 4.00	<b>Class</b>	<b>Teacher</b>	<b>Musician</b>
<b>Afternoon session</b>	Very Advanced	Rachel Shankland	Sandra Smith
	Advanced	Antoine Rousseau	Ken Martlew
	Mixed Ability	Samantha Schad	Barbara Manning
	Newcomers & Improvers	Kate Gentles	Ian & Meryl Thomson
	Musicians' Workshop	Ian Muir (Prestwick)	
4.00 - 4.30	Tea		
4.30 - 5.30	<b>Class</b>	<b>Teacher</b>	<b>Musician</b>
<b>Optional extras</b>	Two Hugh Foss Dances - <i>London Reel &amp; Caller Herrin'</i>	Samantha Schad & Rachel Shankland	Ken Martlew
	Highland	Antoine Rousseau	Sandra Smith
	Ladies' Step	Kate Gentles	Barbara Manning
	If you do not wish to do anything too active you may prefer to enjoy some free time before the evening dance. The choice is yours.		
6.00 - 9.00	<b>Evening dance with Ceilidh items.</b> Dancing will be to Ian Muir (Prestwick) and the Day School Musicians (for programme see p4). Tickets are available in advance from Margaret Catchick or on the door.		

## Musicians' Workshop

Led by accordionist and band leader Ian Muir (Prestwick), this will take place in both the morning and afternoon. The workshop is open to players with a suggested minimum of Grade 5. The workshop is principally aimed at developing a secure style required for dance music playing and will cover

- Instrumental techniques for creating great dance music
- Working together as a band
- Lift, swing and tempo
- Keeping the music interesting!

For an application form containing further details for both the Day School and the Musicians' Workshop, please contact Margaret Catchick, 251 Botley Road, Ley Hill, Chesham, Bucks HP5 1YD, enclosing a SAE,

Tel: 01494 772305, or email [dayschool@rscdslondon.org.uk](mailto:dayschool@rscdslondon.org.uk)

Application forms are also obtainable on the [Branch website](#), at Branch dances, or from your class teacher.

**CLASSES TO SUIT EVERYONE - DON'T MISS IT!**

# London Branch Dances

## Day School Evening Dance

Saturday 19 October 2019  
6.00 - 9.00pm

St Helen's School, Eastbury Road,  
Northwood, Middlesex HA6 3AS  
**Ian Muir (Prestwick) and  
the Day School Musicians**

Hooper's Jig..... 8x32 J  
Maxwell's Rant ..... 8x32 R  
Sugar Candie ..... 8x32 S  
EH3 7AF..... 8x32 J  
The Sailor ..... 8x40 H  
MacDonald of the Isles..... 3x32 S  
The Reel of The Royal Scots ..... 8x32 R

The Clansman..... 8x32 R  
Joie de Vivre..... 8x32 J  
The Belle of Bon Accord..... 4x32 S  
Kingussie Flower..... 8x40 R  
Major Ian Stewart ..... 8x32 J  
Miss Gibson's Strathspey ..... 8x32 S  
The Montgomerie's Rant ..... 8x32 R

Evening Dance with ceilidh items will  
follow the London Day School

RSCDS members £7, non-members £8,  
Tickets available in advance or purchased  
(cash only) on the door. All dances will be  
recapped. See p5 for details of the  
Day School, or visit the website for more  
information and to download the  
application forms.

Crib available at [www.rscdslondon.org.uk](http://www.rscdslondon.org.uk)

## Autumn Wednesday Dance

Wednesday 23 October 2019  
7.00 - 10.00pm

Doors open at 6.30pm  
St Columba's Church, Pont Street  
SW1X 0BD

**Sandra Smith and Keith Anderson**

St Andrew's Fair ..... 8x32 J  
The Grassmarket Reel ..... 32 R  
Seann Truibhas Willichan ..... 8x32 S  
The Barmkin..... 1x88 R  
The Jubilee Jig ..... 8x32 J  
The Byron Strathspey ..... 3x32 S  
The Reel of The Royal Scots ..... 8x32 R

Flowers of Edinburgh ..... 8x32 R  
The Brudenell Jig..... 8x32 J  
Lady Glasgow ..... 8x32 S  
Flowers of Dunbeg..... 5x32 R  
The Machine without Horses ..... 8x32 J  
City of Belfast..... 3x32 S  
The Reel of the 51st Division ..... 8x32 R

**Extras:**  
A Reel for Jeannie..... 4x32 R  
Good Hearted Glasgow ..... 8x32 J

Admission includes light refreshments  
RSCDS members £12, non-members £14,  
full time students (with card) and  
spectators £6. All children (under 16) free

All tickets to be purchased (cash only)  
on the door. All dances will be  
recapped/walked through

Crib available at [www.rscdslondon.org.uk](http://www.rscdslondon.org.uk)

## Christmas Dance

Saturday 14 December 2019  
6.45 for 7.00 - 10.30pm

Doors open at 6.30pm  
St Columba's Church, Pont Street  
SW1X 0BD

**Nicol McLaren & The Glencraig Band**

Joie de Vivre..... 8x32 J  
General Stuart's Reel..... 8x32 R  
Lord Elgin's Reel ..... 8x32 S  
Farewell to Balfour Road..... 96 J  
Orpington Caledonians ..... 8x32 R  
The Minister on the Loch..... 3x32 S  
Miss Mary Douglas ..... 8x48 J  
Margaret Parker's Strathspey..... 8x32 S  
Glastonbury Tor ..... 8x32 R

The Starry Eyed Lassie ..... 8x32 J  
Scott Meikle..... 4x32 R  
Miss Gibson's Strathspey ..... 8x32 S  
Ladies' Fancy ..... 8x32 J  
Flight to Melbourne ..... Sq 4x32 R  
Sugar Candie ..... 8x32 S  
Jennifer's Jig ..... 8x32 J  
City of Belfast ..... 3x32 S  
The Deil among the Tailors ..... 8x32 R

Admission includes a glass of wine and  
Christmas fayre

RSCDS members £20, non-members £23,  
full time students (with card)  
and spectators £11.

All children (under 16) free

All tickets to be purchased (cash only)  
on the door

All dances will be recapped.  
Those with highland/evening dress are  
encouraged to wear it

Crib available at [www.rscdslondon.org.uk](http://www.rscdslondon.org.uk)

## RSCDS London Dances in 2020

The following additional dance dates are confirmed for the remainder of the 2019-2020 season. Events take place at St Columba's Church, Pont Street, London SW1X 0BD unless otherwise stated.

Saturday	11 January	Burns' Ceilidh Dance	<b>Caledonian Reelers</b>
Wednesday	19 February	Winter Wednesday Dance	<b>TBA</b>
Sunday	1 March	90th Anniversary Tea Dance	<b>Ian Robertson and his SCD Band</b>
		London Scottish Regimental Headquarters SW1P 2DX	
Wednesday	27 May	Summer Wednesday Dance	<b>TBA</b>
Saturday	13 June	AGM Dance	<b>TBA</b>
Saturday	4 July	90th Anniversary Garden Dance	<b>Strathallan</b>
		St Helen's School, Eastbury Road, Northwood, Middlesex HA6 3AS	
Saturday	31 October	90th Anniversary Ball	<b>Marian Anderson and her SCD Band</b>
		Allum Hall, Allum Lane, Elstree WD6 3PJ	

For details of all our events please visit [www.rscdslondon.org.uk](http://www.rscdslondon.org.uk)

## ADVANCE ANNOUNCEMENT for London Branch Members and Second Members

As next year your Branch is 90 years young, the Committee invite you through *The Reel* to devise an original 32 bar dance. Be it Jig, Reel or Strathspey in a longwise, square or triangular form. To be included in the 90th Anniversary Ball programme in October 2020. This announcement is to give you a head's start. Full application requirements, and any exclusions, will be given in *Reel* 310. Readers should also view the website occasionally for any updates.

## Family Class News from Marjory Reid



We closed the Family Class season at Fresh Ground participating in the Wandsworth Arts Fringe Festival on Saturday 11 May 2019. In addition to our regular family dancers coming along to join in the Fringe Festival, we were delighted to welcome others who wanted to try out some Scottish dancing including the organiser of the festival and the Assistant Minister of Fresh Ground Church of the Nazarene. Everyone enjoyed a morning of dancing. The great news is that the organiser has invited us to join in the 2020 Wandsworth Arts Fringe Festival which we look forward to doing.

We returned to our old venue of St Columba's Church, Pont Street, to hold a Family Dance on Saturday 8 June. Joining us to dance to the wonderful music of Sandra Smith were some of our Fresh Ground regular family dancers and we were also delighted to welcome other young dancers and their families.

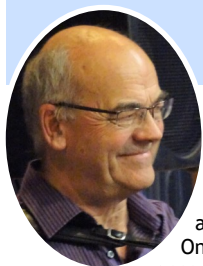
James Fairbairn and Jenny Kendrick guided us through the dance programme. In the interval, all dancers were able to enjoy a well-earned break with tea, juice and cake. Lots of laughter and smiles could be seen during an afternoon of fun.

The Family Class season returns to Fresh Ground on Saturday 7 September, 10.30 - 11.45am. See p4 for further information. It would be great to see some new families come along to join in the dancing at Fresh Ground.



Young dancers  
galloping up the set in  
*The Flying Scotsman*





## Keep Music Live! Golden Reflections

*Robert Whitehead*

Skiffle music was my first musical interest. In the 1950s I was at primary school when the likes of Lonnie Donegan and Tommy Steele were regularly on television and radio. From this stemmed an interest in my wanting to play an instrument firstly, a guitar at the time. The lack of a guitar teacher in the area, curtailed following that through to music lessons. My Dad always had a yearning to play the accordion but the opportunity never arose. Once I voiced an interest in playing music he steered me towards playing the accordion by taking me to a Jimmy Shand concert at nine years old. Attending a live concert for the first time I immediately was drawn to Scottish music and accordion playing. In 1955 the *Bluebell Polka* had just been in the hit parade and it dawned on me that I had witnessed the band live. Once my interest was evident my Dad found a piano teacher who was willing to teach me the accordion and he bought me my first Hohner Arietta 72 bass accordion.

**My apprenticeship begins!** The first question my music teacher asked was, "did I know what I was taking on?" No, should have been my reply as I had no idea at all what I was taking on: hours and hours of practice and the mileage I was about to commit to on my new journey. My first public performance was at my primary school in July 1958, three months into lessons, for a retirement party of a teacher. I enjoyed the buzz of performing to an audience and my hunger to perform regularly made me more determined to do well. A well-known local dance band became aware of my keen interest and took me along to several local dances. My apprenticeship had begun!! The encouragement from these musicians 'The Cheviot Ranters Band' and their love of the music persuaded me to begin competing in local festivals and especially the Northumbrian Gathering in Alnwick in November 1960. This then led to competing in the junior competitions in Perth for the Scottish Championships. This made me a lot of friends and gained me a wealth of experience.

**Our first band:** At this point my younger brother Jon had begun taking drum lessons and we had a chance meeting at an Irish concert, we were playing at, with Alan Brown who was an Irish dancer but also an accomplished pianist. This was the formation of our first band 'The Whitehead Brothers' and to this day we have to explain that Alan was an 'adopted' Whitehead. This also led to a strong connection with the Catholic Fathers on Tyneside, especially the Cass brothers, and an annual gig in the Mayfair Ballroom attended by 800 plus Irish ceilidh dancers with several other parish ceilidh dances to follow for many years. Numerous gigs followed along with more competing which included one of my most memorable moments of winning the Senior Open Scottish Championship at Perth in October 1968; the accolade of being the first Englishman ever, to win this title which I managed to hold for forty years. Not because I was English, as I always say we live north of Hadrian's Wall and a huge percentage of our friends are Scots but because I was actually called a Sassenach at the time.

**The Danelaw Band is born.** A year later we had the chance of an audition for Opportunity Knocks and expanded the band with Joe Hornsby on fiddle and Ray Barker on bass. Thus, in April 1969 'The Danelaw Band' is born. And the many bookings and mileage began! A chance double booking of 'Andrew Rankine and his Band', with whom we had become friends, launched us onto the Scottish country dance scene. We had lots of encouragement from our heroes, namely Jimmy Shand, Andrew Rankine, Ian Powrie, Jim Johnstone to name but a few, who all visited our local area often. From then on we travelled the length and breadth of the country and abroad, taking the dancers with us, to many foreign parts.

**'Take the Floor'** During this fortunate career we also had the pleasure to record several 'Take the Floor' broadcasts for BBC Radio Scotland, and a couple of those became hugely memorable. The first one being the largest outside broadcast ever for TTF which took place in the Federation Brewery in Gateshead and was attended by an audience of 780 and the second outside broadcast from Alnwick Castle, my home town, home of the Duke and Duchess of Northumberland and also the birth place of Harry Potter filming. During the events of a busy musical career and change in lifestyle and careers of the band members, we had the occasions to change personnel and the musicians. I have been privileged to work with these people over the years, some of them becoming regular band members for extended periods. I must at this point mention Geoff Holter, who has looked after the family accordions for the lifetime of the band.

**Memorable Events:** I often get asked what my most memorable events are. To me the local dances are as important as the huge events. We had a regular local dance in the Newton-on-the-Moor village hall which was the next village to where my parents lived and the backbone of helping us become established as a well-known dance band. The name Danelaw was adopted by us in 1969 after some research by my brother Jon, at that time covering a Viking area we played regularly in from South Yorkshire to the Scottish Borders. Some of the venues we played in when we started to travel countrywide stand out including, the City Hall in Newcastle, the Floral Hall in Southport, Porchester Hall in London, the De Montfort Hall in Leicester to name but a few. It struck us as to how privileged we were to be gigging in these venues when we saw the likes of James Last and Tony Bennett billed for the following evenings. However, Jimmy Shand's words echoed through my head, "You can have your head as high in the clouds as you want son, as long as you keep your feet firmly on the ground" - sound advice and always remembered.

**Also, I was honoured** to be asked to join Freeland Barbour's 'Occasionals' in Washington DC to take part in the Smithsonian Folklife Festival in July 2003 - what an event and an experience I will always hold as one of my most treasured memories and likewise being invited to Shetland Accordion and Fiddle Festival on many occasions, again a privilege to be part of such an important annual festival with such a wealth of talent already on their Islands. More recently we have again been privileged to be booked to take a leading part in the Orkney Dance Festival since April 2015.

As well as all of this a mention for a special friend Ian Barbour who has booked the band for over forty years for his Goathland weekends twice a year and also provided programmes for all of our abroad dance trips and many weekends, the Guisborough Dance Club has been a good friend to the Danelaw Band, as have the Market Harborough Scottish Dance Club and Cambridge Scottish Society.

**What is my favourite tune?** Well, I have too many to single one out, when pressed, I would probably choose *Angus MacLeod* composed by Andrew Rankine, catchy and whistled by many but so simple.

**Our band plays on;** I still get as much pleasure in playing today as I did when we first started our journey. Thousands of dances, old tyme, ceilidh, Scottish country, Irish and ballroom, hundreds of accordion clubs country wide, hundreds of weddings following on to special anniversaries, lots of CD and LP recordings and many, many long term friendships have built our lives as we know them today. Nothing is more exciting than packing the instruments and amplification into the back of the car and heading off in any direction for a dance week or event with the band members and our wives. We find ourselves excited, laughing at 'old' band travelling stories and still have a pride in what we are going to present and play at our gig. We have our loyal supporters and dancing friends to thank for joining us on our journey to this Golden Anniversary year, as it would have been mighty lonely and impossible without them all!!!! See fan appreciations on p12.

## Bands

M C Scottish N S  
Country B A I Dance  
M C B Band I N S

Contact: Mike McGuinness Tel: 020 8398 6799  
or Tel/Fax: 020 8546 0075 (business hours)

### CALEDONIAN REELERS

Well established three-piece SCD band, consisting of accordionist, fiddler and drummer. Caller/piper can also be supplied. Available for RSCDS dances, ceilidhs, weddings, reeling. Anywhere, anytime for your function. Please contact Derek Chappell 01206 764232 / Mary Felgate 07866 757401 for further information, or [derek\\_chappell@aol.co.uk](mailto:derek_chappell@aol.co.uk)

### IAN ROBERTSON AND HIS SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE BAND

Solo, duo or trio available for Scottish country dances, classes, weddings, ceilidhs and reeling events. Contact Ian Robertson on 01296 630682 or [ibrobertson@btinternet.com](mailto:ibrobertson@btinternet.com)

### THE FRANK REID SCOTTISH DANCE BAND

Broadcasting band for Scottish country dances, Reeling, Ceilidhs and Weddings. Any size of band from one to seven with PA to match from 100 to 2000 watts. Particularly interested in any ideas for expansion of ceilidh market. The Granary, Park Lane, Finchampstead, Wokingham RG40 4QL. Tel/ Fax: 0118 932 8983 or [reel@frankreid.com](mailto:reel@frankreid.com)



L to R: Graeme Whitehead, David Ashbridge, Alan Brown and Robert Whitehead, (June 2016).

## London Branch AGM 2019

The AGM of the London Branch took place on Saturday 8 June 2019.

Margaret Catchick, chairing the meeting, thanked those present for attending. She summarised the Branch Report for 2018-2019 which had been sent to members in advance of the meeting, after which Simon Wales presented the accounts.

The Committee had put forward one motion (noted on the Agenda which was circulated to members with *Reel* 308) to reinstate the post of Vice Chairman and increase the number of ordinary members to eight, and this was passed unanimously.

Having completed her three years as Chairman, Margaret Catchick stepped down from the Committee to be replaced by Jim Cook. Jerry Reinstein also stepped down from the Committee and Melanie Rowland now takes his place. The make-up of the 2019-2020 Committee is therefore as follows:

Chairman	Jim Cook
Treasurer	Simon Wales
Secretary	Joanne Lawrence

Committee Members: Elaine Davies, Jenny Kendrick, George Potts, Thelma-Jane Robb, Melanie Rowland, Margaret Shaw

Rachel Wilton was confirmed as President for a further year. Jerry and Danielle Reinstein were both appointed Vice Presidents of the Branch joining Mary Barker, Jenny Greene, and Rosemary Tilden.

Although Andrew Kellett, Society Chairman and London Branch member, was unable to attend the AGM, he had sent an email on behalf of the Society, thanking the Branch committee and all members for their hard work throughout the year in promoting SCD and keeping the Society active and strong.

Simon Wales thanked Margaret Catchick for acting as Chair for the last three years and for all her past work on the Committee in various capacities. On behalf of the Branch Rachel Wilton presented her with a bouquet of flowers

Next year's AGM will take place on Saturday 13 June 2020 and will be followed by the End of Season Dance.

## The Naming of Dances

by Charles Foss

Further to Charles' Letter to *The Reel* in *Reel* 306 p16 he has sent *The Reel* this article giving readers an insight into his father's reasons for naming many of his dances.



Loch Skerrow

Interest has been expressed in the names chosen by my Father, Hugh Foss, for the

dances that he composed. After he retired and moved to *Glendarroch* he began to produce a number of dances which all required names. Many names honour people in dancing while some come from widespread sources. *Miss Fleming* being his future daughter-in-law. *Dougal Dalgetty*, *Dandie Dinmont* and *Lucy of Lammermoor* are from Scott novels. But many were selected by scouring the local ordnance survey map for names with a certain evocativeness. *Irongray*, *Stroangassel* and *Dundrennan* are nearby farms. *Dalry* is still occasionally referred to as *The Clachan* (the town). From his study window the highest hill that he

## Introducing New LB Committee Member Mel Rowland



How grateful I am to have discovered Scottish country dancing! It was by chance about four years ago. I attended a ceilidh

to celebrate a friend's 25th Wedding Anniversary in Birmingham. I loved the fun of the ceilidh, seeing the sheer enjoyment on people's faces and the fact that everyone (old or young) could participate. Having had a love of dance throughout my life (watching it rather than doing it) I decided to see if I could find a SCD class in London where I live.

Thanks too, to Google for finding a RSCDS Beginners' Class at Richmond. It was love from lesson one. Throughout my three years at Richmond I have been very fortunate to have had Judith Jones as my teacher. She teaches with amazing patience and humour. The Richmond Class is a really friendly and an enthusiastic group. SCD has now become a large part of my social life and I regularly attend Pont Street dances in London and

RSCDS Day Schools with other members of the group. After one year of dancing at Richmond, I ventured to the RSCDS Summer School at St Andrews. It was a wonderful experience and helped to cement my enthusiasm for SCD.

I have always worked in further education both as a Librarian and an ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) Lecturer, and find that the vibrancy and fun of SCD helps me to wind down after a day at college. My favourite dances are *Catch the Wind* as this is the first dance I knew off by heart and *The Dream Catcher*, as I particularly enjoy dancing square dances.

I look forward to working on the committee and hope I can help to bring the joy of Scottish country dancing to many more people.

Ed. In addition to Jim and Mel, TRET extend warmest congratulations to Danielle and Jerry Reinstein - it is intended that a profile of our two newly elected Vice-Presidents will appear in the next *Reel*.

## Notes from Coates Crescent from Andrew Kellett



We are delighted that Clare MacGregor has joined the staff team at Coates Crescent as Office Manager (See photo R). She has taken on many of the responsibilities

previously held by the Executive Officer. The remainder of the EO's role has been shared among the Board and staff. Debbie Morris has replaced Mike Greenwood as our Marketing and Communications Officer. She is working with members to devise a marketing and communications strategy that will be launched next year.

I hope you have had chance to look around the new RSCDS website. It is a significant improvement on the previous site and additional functionality will be added in the coming months. On the website you will find highlight reports from Management Board meetings and the Trustees' Report for 2018-19. We had a solid financial performance once again and it was pleasing that RSCDS membership had grown during the year. This is encouraging and the Board is taking further steps to stimulate growth

at the grassroots, where our most important work happens. At the AGM on 2 November 2019 the Board will propose reducing RSCDS subscriptions by £2.00 along with a recommendation that branches increase their fee by the corresponding amount. If approved, this will mean that members pay the same but more of your money will remain with branches to support teaching, dancing, music and recruitment locally.

The AGM in Perth is part of a weekend of Scottish dance-related activities. This year the weekend has been re-branded 'The Autumn Gathering' to emphasise that it is more of a social than business occasion. It would be great to see a large contingent from London Branch there. By then a new RSCDS publication of 30 popular dances will be available. Looking further into the future we have begun planning how to celebrate the Society's Centenary in 2023.



could see is called *Bennan*. The name Bannan is common to several local hills, so adding *Airie* gave it some distinction and from its summit one can gaze down upon *Clatteringshaws* loch. Had he lent forwards and looked hard left there would be a glimpse of *Black Craig of Dee*, but only when the trees were bare of leaves. To the right, from an upstairs window, *Curleywee*, the northernmost summit of the *Rhinn of Kells* range is nearly visible. *Garple Burn* is just down the road, crossing it to reach *Ken Bridge*, where across the valley is the tree covered *Cairn Edward*. Turning left into a side valley brings one to the sheltered village of *Balmaclellan*. If, instead, one can travel north and soon pass the handful of houses that comprise *Kendoon*. The loch of the same name is hidden from the main road continuing towards *Carsphairn*. *Cairnsmore of Carsphairn* dominates the view but on

leaving that behind one enters the next county and espies *Loch Doon*. The castle stood in the loch until the water level was raised for a hydro-electric scheme. Then the ruins were moved, stone by stone, to a site on the loch's shore. It is unique in having eleven sides of equal length. The lonely, but beautiful, *Loch Skerrow* could be reached only by the railway, but that closed in 1966. Although only a crossing place for trains, with no road access, anglers could use the station, there being a platform long enough for one carriage, and then scramble down to the loch. Two houses accommodated the signalmen and their families while water columns replenished the locomotives. Probably, the only dance inspired by its name is the *Celtic Brooch*. An illustration of such a brooch appears on the cover.

Ed. For further reading on this see Wilson Nicol's article in *Reel* 280 p16.





## The Reel Profile - Today's Dance Devisers: Mervyn Short in his own words

From time to time it is the intention of *The Reel* to invite a popular dance deviser, to reveal a little of themselves - their beginnings and stimuli. *The Reel* is very grateful to BHS Borders Branch member Mervyn Short from

Rustington, West Sussex for sending us his story. Mervyn in collaboration with *Green Ginger* has published 12 Scottish Country Dances with accompanying music, Mervyn has also had several dances published in RSCDS Books and the Strathspey Server shows in excess of 40.

**As a child I learnt ballroom**, old time and Latin American dancing but gave this up when I became a teenager. I started Scottish country dancing in 1977 at 17 and Highland at 18. My first teacher of Scottish dance, Margaret Ogilvie, was an all-round dance teacher so I also learnt some ballet, modern and tap dancing which helped with the Highland dancing. I was totally hooked on Scottish dancing and was dancing at every opportunity, sometimes seven nights a week. In 1980 I qualified to teach SCD with The Imperial Society of Teachers of Dancing (ISTD) and a year later I qualified under Janet Cook to teach Highland dancing. In the nineties I decided to qualify with RSCDS and gained my Preliminary Certificate in 1993 and Full Certificate in 1995. My tutor for both courses was Bruce Frazer. Soon after I was invited to teach at Day/Weekend Schools and in 2006 I taught at St Andrews and the following year at Winter School. Since then I have been very lucky to be asked to teach all over the world. In 2016 and 2017 I was Depute Director of Summer School and in 2018 Coordinator of Winter School. I have served on Education and Training Committee twice and am an examiner for the Society's Teaching Examinations.

**I started devising dances** many years ago and published a book in 1985. At that time John Drewry's dances were very popular in West Sussex where I danced. Around the same time dances devised by Roy Goldring and Derek Haynes were also catching on. Like a number of other devisers I used John's idea of the 3rd and 4th couples starting on the opposite side and choreographed quite complex dances. After learning many dances by Goldring and Haynes with a 'twist' on a common formation I realised that dances could be effective and enjoyable without being too difficult. Over the years I have enjoyed dancing/teaching dances by other devisers particularly those of Jean Attwood, Ann Dix and Barry Priddey. I am sure some of their ideas have found their way into my dances.

**My friends will know** that I am very keen on dance programmes including a good variety of formations without duplications, mainly popular dances (to avoid lots of 'homework' or lengthy recaps) and old as well as a few new dances. I also like a good variety of types of tunes eg single and double jigs/reels, pipe tunes, two-steps, strong strathspeys, pastorals and slow airs. When devising dances I like to use a good variety of formations. Some of my favourite formations to dance are corners pass and turn, parallel reels of three, set to and turn corners (especially in strathspey time), strathspey poussette and tourbillon. In my

dances I try to include something new or a 'twist' on an old formation. Today, people seem to only like dances that 'flow', so to this end I try to include this feature. However, I think it is sad that dances that require anticipation, a change of direction or difficult phrasing do not become popular. If one looks at dances from the early RSCDS books some fall into this category but have stood the test of time.

**Nowadays** most of my dances are 32 bars long and use the longwise set. I used to write 40 bar dances but stopped when I learnt that it is more difficult to arrange music for this number of bars. As well as the conventional longwise set I have devised a couple of dances more suitable for demonstration than the ballroom and use different shapes, eg diamond and triangle. My dance, *Sixsome Medley* a 32 bar strathspey and 32 bar reel, starts in a diamond shape and uses four women and two men. It was devised for a demonstration when there was a shortage of men. I was very pleased to have this dance placed first in the annual Jack McConachie Memorial Sword 1993 competition organised by ISTD. Three more of my dances were placed first in subsequent years, *A Jig for Heather*, *King Edward's Jig* and *Boundary Cottage*. These dances and other 'placed' dances will be published by RSCDS in *The Imperial Book of Scottish Country Dances, Volumes 4-5*. This book became available from RSCDS bookshop at Summer School this summer.

**Some people assume** that a deviser needs a reason to devise a dance but this is not necessarily true. I have devised dances for a specific occasion, person, place or animals as in *Sunshine and Sweetie's Jig* Book 48. Usually ideas come to me and I then devise a dance using those movements. My dance, *Mist o'er the Loch*, RSCDS Diamond Jubilee Book, was devised during a quiet five minutes at work! If I sit down with the intention to devise a dance I very rarely have inspiration and the paper remains blank! Some teachers devise dances specifically to teach a particular formation. I try to avoid this as I like to teach dances that dancers might encounter at a dance. However, my dance *Holyrood Strathspey* Book 51 was devised because I wanted an easy strathspey that included the formation corners pass and turn.

Over the years I have used different methods of devising a dance. I might start with the first eight bars or conversely I might decide on the last formation but usually I devise the middle section first. This was certainly the case with, *Mist o'er the Loch*. In my latest dance, *Ysobel Stewart of Fish Hoek* Book 52, I started with the first eight bars. I wanted to include the formation, tourbillon as I felt it is not used enough. There is only one other RSCDS dance which includes the formation, *The Sands of Morar* Book 45. The next sixteen bars I derived inspiration from *Midsummer Common* bars 9-16 Book 49 and *Portnacraig* bars 17-24 Book 36. Bars 25-32 of *Ysobel Stewart of Fish Hoek* are a variation on Bars 25-32 of *Mrs Stewart of Fasnacloich*. I was delighted that this dance was included in Book 52 because of its association with Ysobel Stewart (co-founder RSCDS) and that it includes the tourbillon.

**It would be very satisfying** to invent a new formation but so far I have not been very successful! Scottish country dance is a traditional form of dance and I think it is very important to devise dances using

traditional formations and in the traditional style. However, it is an evolving dance form and new formations keep it alive and fresh. I am very concerned that 8x32 strathspeys are disappearing from our programmes. I have devised strathspeys for three and four couples but my strathspeys published by RSCDS are all 8x32. When Stephen Webb asked me to write this article he also asked me to devise a new dance, please see *The Dance Corner* on p14. I decided that I wanted to use the corners in the middle section of the dance. I would not say that I have devised a new formation but the movements are a little different, perhaps it could be called 'Turn and Loop'. To start this formation I needed the 1st couple facing their first corners and there are many ways of doing this, eg set cast and turn, cross cast and turn, turn cast and turn, 'long' cast and turn or lead down the middle and up to face first corners. However, I enjoy dancing the last eight bars of *Lady Mary Cochrane's Reel* Book 26 and have used it for bars 1-8 of this new dance changing the right hand to left hand at the end. Having devised bars 1-24 I needed to position the dancers in their progressed positions to repeat the dance. After the setting on bars 25-28 I could have had the dancers 'chasing' to their new positions but I felt this was being overused so I opted for six hands round to the left halfway. I hope this will become a popular dance on programmes as well as a 'teaching dance'. Emphasis can be given to the dancing of the 'polite turn' correctly, good use of hands and arms in the turns, phrasing in the 'loop' formation and control in the hands round to the left halfway.

**Finally, I would like to set out my views on music** for new dances. In my early days of devising dances I did not have the luxury of a musician so I wrongly used music that I liked for other dances. If it is a dance that is rarely danced I still feel that this is acceptable but I think it is very wrong to use the tune for a well-known dance for a new dance. I remember seeing footage of Miss Milligan talking about dances and their tunes and she said that the tune always came first. I agree with her and when I hear a tune that I particularly like I start thinking about writing a dance for it. This is what happened with my new dance. The tune that I have used for *Lochinver* is one that Judith Muir played in a class and I instantly liked it. I have a penchant for minor keys anyway! As far as I know the tune has not been assigned as the 'original' for another dance. When I submit dances to RSCDS I usually do so without suggested tunes and I have always been happy with the tunes that are assigned to the dance.

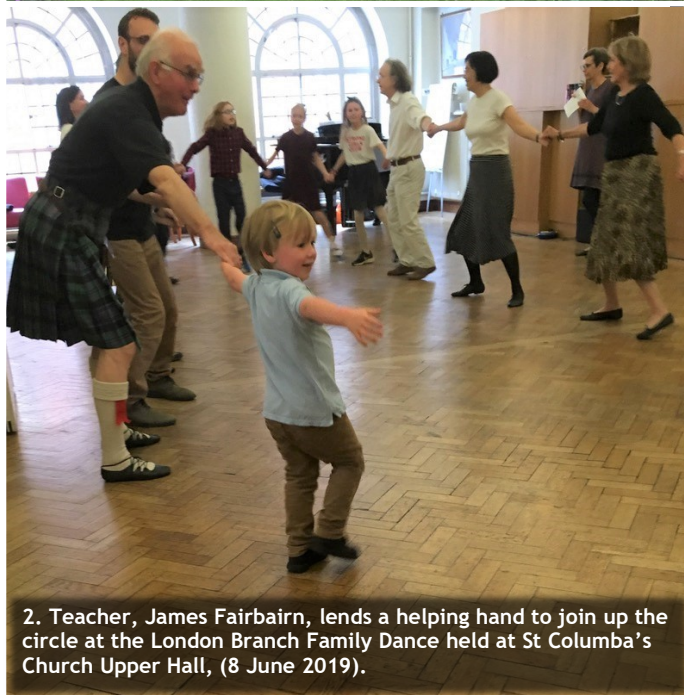
I try not to devise many dances now as I feel that there are so many. However, I am sure the urge to write a new dance has not entirely disappeared. I think it is a pity that a lot of RSCDS dances are never danced. Years ago a very experienced teacher said to me that if you want a new dance just look at the early RSCDS books! A very true statement.

Ed. For *Reel* 313 it is planned that New Zealand deviser, Iain Boyd will give us his profile.





1. Avoiding the showers, Ian Robertson plays for the BSRC summer dancing in a member's garden. Last dance of the evening - *The Reel of the 51st Division*, (15 June 2019).



2. Teacher, James Fairbairn, lends a helping hand to join up the circle at the London Branch Family Dance held at St Columba's Church Upper Hall, (8 June 2019).



3. Following a most enjoyable picnic at St Albans' 'Pinetops' and just beating a fine drizzle, around four sets of dancers dance *Torridon Lassies* to the excellent music of the Silver Cross Band aka host, Chris Walker and Barbara Manning on fiddle, (6 July 2019).



4. Past Chairman and Hon. Vice-President Mary Barker with past Secretary Helen Brown enjoying the London Branch AGM, (8 June 2019).



5. The poussette all round is danced in the strathspey *Midsummer Common* at the fourth Summer Tuesday to the uplifting music of Marian Anderson and her Band in Lower Hall, St Columba's Church, (16 July 2019).



6. The Craigievar Band with Liz Hall fiddle, Alistair Forbes accordion and Alex Forbes on keyboard playing at Berkhamsted's Spring Dance, (18 May 2019).



7. Unusually, as the men dance highland schottische the ladies dance the *Glasgow Highlanders* setting step in the strathspey, *Prince Edward Island* at the SEHDCDS Annual Drewry Dance at Sele Farm Community Centre, Hertford, to music from Calum Mitchell, (8 June 2019).



8. Meg and Duncan Campbell dance *Sugar Candie* at Chiswick SCDC Club Night, (19 May 2019).



9. The cream tea awaits. BHS stalwarts, Marian Morris, Sara Ribbens, Anne Carter and Peter Luke (whom it was good to see was again looking so full of beans) at RSCDS BHS Summer Dance and Strawberry Tea Party held in Normandy Village Hall, (7 July 2019).



10. Supporting the Wandsworth Arts Fringe Festival, London Branch held a family class at Fresh Ground, Battersea, (11 May 2019).



11. Mike Aylward leads Marjorie Brown down the middle in *The Wild Geese* as part of two 15 minute BSRC dems at the The Great Big Aldbury Danceathon held in the Church of St John the Baptist as part of a sponsored five hour dance marathon by different dance groups. Over £3000 was raised for the Alzheimer's Society, (8 June 2019).



12. Chris Collings and Beth Fairbairn dancing the poussette all round in the strathspey *Midsummer Common* to the music of Jim Lindsay and his Scottish Dance Band in Allum Hall, Elstree at West MACS 44th Annual Charity Ball, (27 April 2019).



13. Iain MacPhail and his Scottish Dance Band playing for the jig *The Flying Spur* at the Guildford SCDC Spring Dance in Normandy Village Hall, (4 May 2019).





## The Good Air of SCD in Argentina by Charly Candia

**My beginnings.** Definitely, I will be always grateful to my parents for sending me to a bilingual British college in Buenos Aires when I was a youngster. I can still remember during my childhood trying to do my first SCD steps dancing *Petronella* and *The Dashing White Sergeant*, getting ready for the next Ceilidh Caledonian. Such good memories! As time went by, more and more responsibilities came to my life and dancing had to be put off. After some years, I came across an old school friend (a BASCDancer) and he encouraged me to take up reeling and jigging again..., so here I am.

**About our Dancing Group:** BASCDancers, Buenos Aires Scottish Country Dancers, was born in 2005, and we are very enthusiastic and cheerful. We began as a group of people

led by a dancer who was attending Summer School regularly and was planning to take her teaching certificate. One of our aims was to promote SCD in Buenos Aires so we started gathering once a week for two hours to dance and learn about the history of these dances, exchanging books, CDs and all kinds of information concerning Scottish culture.

**Our Teacher:** Time went by and we have become an Affiliated Group to the RSCDS; also our teacher, María Sol Grimoldi, was awarded her teaching certificate, an event that marks a breakthrough in the history of SCD in South America because she is the only dancer with a teaching certificate granted by the RSCDS in the whole region. In 2014 some BASCDancers participated, for the first time, at the Summer School in St Andrews, and we

toyed with the idea of being able to represent our country and group every year from that moment on by having a group of us attending there regularly. We, generally around 20 dancers, meet once a week on a Friday from 8.00pm for a two-hour class in a dance studio\*, where we improve footwork and learn new formations. We also hold a couple of special workshops a year along themes such as: *Scottish Clans and Tartans*, *Scottish Legends and Fairy Tales*, and *A Tribute to Robert Burns*. Once a year we meet to dance and walk or row in our Delta in Tigre, a city about 23 miles from Buenos Aires, and our end of the year party is called 'The Happy Meeting' as the dance name. Events like these strengthen the bonds of friendship among all dancers.

**Happy dancing from the far away southern cone of the World!** There may be many reasons why members have joined our group, some are dancers of other styles, some came out of a deep interest in British culture, some used to dance SCD at school and some as with me, missed it once the school years were over - what is certain is that we all dance to have great fun and make new friends.

\* Dance Studio - Liliana Belfiore, Hipólito Yrigoyen 1640, Ciudad de Buenos Aires. If any reader should happen to be in Buenos Aires, do join us - [www.bascdancers.com.ar](http://www.bascdancers.com.ar)

NB The logo represents a ghillie.

RSCDS International Branch is planning a dance event in Buenos Aires in 2020.

Ed. Also see p6 Reel 210.



BASCDancers' Hallowe'en Theme Dance 2017

## A Firm Favourite in Market Harborough by Kevin and Janet Marchand



**We were delighted** when we joined the Market Harborough Scottish Dance Club to find that Robert Whitehead was booked to play for their Annual Ball. I, (Kevin) knew Robert from work days and gigs 'up north' and we knew the music was of a very high standard with great tunes and very 'danceable'. Little did we realise that we joined just after the beginning of a great unbroken run. Robert and the Danelaw have been playing for the Annual Ball since May 1991 and Robert kindly says he automatically puts the first Saturday in June for us in his diary.

**Whilst our numbers** are not quite up to the 120/130 we used to get in the 1990's we can still fill a hall when folk know it is Robert playing. Some early visitors from Guildford were so impressed by the music that they invited Robert and the Band to play at their next Annual Dance and they are now quite regulars in the Midlands. Over the years the line-up has changed with the constants being Robert with Davy Ashridge on the drum and recently

it was great to welcome back Alan Brown on piano. Two years ago we had an unusual treat with his line-up being the only two Englishmen to have been awarded Scottish accordion champions, along with a young fiddler from Orkney, all due to his regular musicians being unavailable at the last minute. Robert said he could have played all night and we certainly could have listened and danced for longer. We are indeed, fortunate that Robert and the Danelaw Band are still willing to travel so we can enjoy dancing to him and long may it continue.

## The Danelaw in Cambridge by Dr Donald Wilson

**Time has a nasty habit** of sliding past unnoticed when you are doing something else, so I was taken completely by surprise to learn that this year is the Danelaw's 50th Anniversary. Very pleasantly surprised too though, to realise how long they have been giving people so much pleasure, and also that I have known Robert for nearly all that time.

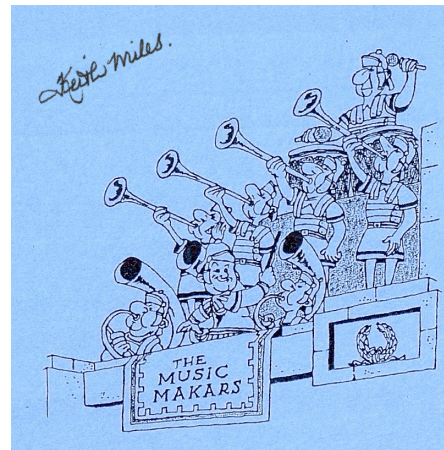
**Robert and the Danelaw Band** first came to play in Cambridge in 1978 and have been coming for Cambridge Scottish Society events ever since. We were all much younger then and one year Robert's wife Judith sat backstage with their baby in a carrycot all evening. We have had other bands, but the Danelaw kept coming back and have been regulars for a long time now.



So much so that now next year's Ball is booked before this year's is over, and they have become firm friends. They have also played for three of my own balls and a fourth is scheduled.

**Their energy is infectious** and their stamina amazing and they are always bright and ready to start in spite of the distances they travel to get to our events. They put up with MCs wanting lots of encores, and Robert produces splendid sets of tunes for uncommon dances. Long may they continue to put wings on our heels!

Donald gives the vote of thanks to Robert Whitehead and his Band for another excellent evening of music in Cambridge, (13 December 2014).



If you wish to receive London Branch information by email, whether a Branch member or not, (not more than once a month), please send your email address to [publicity@rscdslondon.org.uk](mailto:publicity@rscdslondon.org.uk) and we will add you to the list.



## ATA - The Australian Teachers' Alliance by Ros McKie ATA Secretary



Ed. This is the second of four consecutive articles where the SCD teaching associations around the world set out their stall and offer you a doorway to pass through to find out more.

Australia has seven Branches but it is such a big country (eg the distance between Perth Branch and Sydney Branch is over two and a half thousand miles or four hours' flying time) that the teachers feel very isolated. The one event each year that has a fair proportion of teachers attending is the Annual Winter School which the Branches take it in turn to organise. At the Hunter Valley School in 1990 (after several informal discussions in the late 1980s) several meetings were held to decide whether to form an Australian Teachers' Association. These meetings were chaired by Heather Byers from Melbourne, with teachers from every Branch contributing their ideas. It was resolved to form an association to be called the Australian Teachers' Association and an interim committee from Melbourne Branch was elected. At the 1991 Winter School in Dookie the Draft Constitution was presented

and adopted. It was decided that it would be run in three year cycles by the teachers of each Branch in turn. The first Branch to run it was Melbourne and Margaret Greer, the first secretary, did most of the initial setting up and running of it. Since then almost every Branch has taken a couple of turns in running it. At the moment it is the turn of the Hunter Valley Branch (a Branch centred on Newcastle, on the Hunter River 160km north of Sydney). The AGMs are usually held each year at whatever venue the Winter School is at.

**Membership:** It was decided that full membership should only be open to teachers who had completed some RSCDS training (ie Full Certificate (now Units 4 & 5) or Preliminary - now Units 1-3) but that others could join as Associate Members. This means that it is open to anyone who is interested in teaching matters and to unqualified teachers who are conducting a class. In 1999 ATA had to drop the word 'Association' from its title so since then we have been the 'Australian Teachers' Alliance'

**Early Initiatives:** One of ATA's early initiatives was in the realm of teacher training. Elma See (Hunter Valley) and Morag Napier (Sydney) were heavily involved with

the organising of weeklong schools to train candidates for both levels of the exam. ATA also ran weekends for tutors and when the new units came in a few years ago, there was a weekend on Unit 4 for both candidates and tutors. ATA has also run a variety of refresher courses for teachers. Some of these have been stand alone weekends but these depend on teachers having the means to travel to them so the more successful ones have been run immediately prior to a Winter School. The presenters of these courses have varied. Some have been run with Australian teachers volunteering to take a single session - eg running a discussion on how to attract new dancers or presenting ideas on what 'progressive teaching' means. Others have been run by overseas teachers. Sometimes, ATA has taken advantage of a visiting examiner but at other times the teacher has been flown in from overseas.

Our Newsletter is a bi-annual publication of ATACHAT, just for teachers, written by teachers. Across the years there have been a variety of inspiring articles on various aspects of teaching. ATA can be contacted for more information at [ata.rscds@gmail.com](mailto:ata.rscds@gmail.com) or at PO Box 97, Adamstown, NSW 2289

*Reel 310 will feature SERTA, formed in 2006.*

## Watford '100' Centenary Dance by Rose Kreloff

What a night it was! 16 March 2019 will go down in history as a red letter day with the Watford & West Herts Scottish Society Caledonian Ball to celebrate the 100th Anniversary. We were very happy to have the evening opened by RSCDS Past President, Helen Russell. It was not just the

wonderful music of Ian Robertson and Muriel Johnstone, or the copious and varied buffet, or even the quality of the programme and dancing, but the sight of the Allum Hall in Elstree packed with 150 dancers all having a great time, which will remain with us.

The Anniversary was marked by a dance devised by member Jennie Hartley, *A 100 Years Behind Us!* (see [my.strathspey.org/dd/dance/18537/](http://my.strathspey.org/dd/dance/18537/)), with the tunes *Watford Centenary Reel* and *Derby Road* by Ian Robertson and a beautifully decorated cake with prosecco to accompany it. Now into its second centenary, the society is looking at ways to promote Scottish country dancing and culture and to continue to make them relevant today. But we are preaching to the converted here - readers of *The Reel* already know how great SCD is! Please do come along and join us for our Caledonian Ball next year on 21 March, when Sandy Nixon and his Band will be playing for us.



Past and present members (no Founding members visibly present) of WWHSS rally round the celebration cake, (16 March 2019).

## Birds, Butterflies and a Big Birthday by Andrew Osborne



On 1 June 2019 approximately 100 family and dancing friends gathered at the Sacred Heart Church Hall in Wimbledon to celebrate Bruce McLaren's 85th Birthday. The hall was beautifully decorated by Bruce's eldest daughter Fiona in a butterfly and birds theme as these are both lifelong interests for Bruce. The evening started with a champagne reception followed by a short speech and a rousing version of Happy Birthday. The MC for the evening was Caroline Hamilton who expertly led everyone through a fun, interesting, and occasionally challenging, selection of dances. The music was played by the Craigellachie Band who were in superb form with a great selection of tunes which kept everyone up on their feet and

Fiona with her father, the birthday boy, Bruce McLaren (Fiona master-minded the amazing decorations).

dancing. One surprise for Bruce was a new dance, *Bruce's Jig*, which was demonstrated by his family before everyone had the opportunity to get up and dance it. The jig was devised by me especially for the occasion for my father-in-law with a lively tune of the same name composed also especially for Bruce by Ian Muir. The evening was thoroughly enjoyed by all who attended. The evening also raised £900 for Bruce's chosen charity - The RSPB.

Click on the dance name to see it performed or visit <https://youtu.be/AAFLhqb4lC4>

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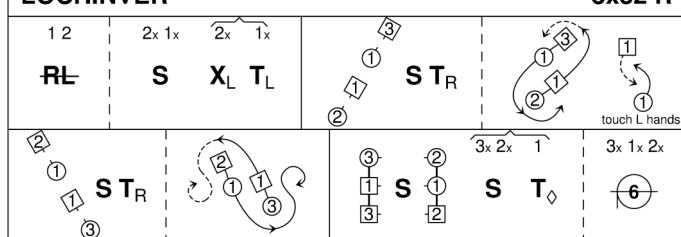
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# The Dance Corner

## LOCHINVER

8x32 R



Mervyn Short, 2019, The Reel (309) Dance diagram courtesy of Keith Rose 3C/4C longwise set.

Gilderoy

Traditional



Lochinver is a coastal fishing village in the Assynt District of Sutherland, Highland and was the location used in the 2018 film 'Edie'.

**Lochinver** - a 32 bar reel for three couples in a four-couple longwise set. Devised by Mervyn Short, April 2019. Recommended tune: *Gilderoy*

Bars	Description
1-4	1st and 2nd couples dance half rights and lefts.
5-8	2nd and 1st couples set and giving left hands, 2nd couple cross to own sides and 1st couple turn to face first corners.
9-16	1st couple set to first corners and giving right hand turn once round to finish 1st couple facing each other diagonally across the set with corner behind. 1st couple followed in tandem by first corner pass left shoulder and then curve round corner position, dance in and briefly giving left hand turn to face second corner. First corners finish in the diagonally opposite position.
17-24	Repeat bars 9-16 with second corners, 1st couple curve round to the right to finish with 1st woman between 3rd couple in first place all facing down, 1st man between 2nd couple in third place all facing up.
25-28	All set twice, 1st couple turning right about into second place on bars 27-28. 3rd and 2nd couples face in at the end of bar 28.
29-32	3rd, 1st and 2nd couples dance six hands round half way to finish on own sides ending in the order 2,1,3. Repeat, having passed a couple.

Readers are invited to try this new dance and write in to *The Reel* Editorial Team with their comments.

## Scotch on the Rocks

Those 130 guests that were lucky enough to be attending the annual RSCDS BHS Border Branch Summer Dance and Strawberry Tea Party at Normandy Village Hall on 7 July 2019 were treated to a demonstration of Highland/Ladies' Step danced with poise and elegance from the talented duo of Sheila Oviat-Ham (on left) and Julie Russ. First Julie danced *Miss Forbes* then, Sheila danced *Over the Water to Charlie* and then together *Scotch on the Rocks* a dance originally written by Patricia Reid, for herself and Malcolm Ferris Lay to demonstrate. The Foreword from Pat to the dance entitled 'Just for Man and Lady' reads:

'This dance was composed in 1975 for a trip in Switzerland at which the tune *Scotch on the Rocks* was very popular in that part of the world. To add variety other tunes were

included and each step of the dance has been arranged to fit the change of music.

The first and second steps are danced to the tune *Scotch on the Rocks* the third step is danced to *Country Girl*, fourth and fifth steps to *The Drunken Piper* and the sixth step reverts back to *Scotch on the Rocks*.

The dance was arranged basically as a light hearted demonstration dance and a fair amount of travel should be used - space permitting. I hope you will have as much fun as my friends and I have had in performing this dance.'

Pat would have been pleased to know that her dance was again an item of fun entertainment that afternoon - with Sheila and Julie even bravely soldiering-on despite an unfortunate breakdown in the recorded music just at the end of the performance. We are grateful to Joan Desborough for providing details of this dance which she herself has both danced and taught at an RSCDS school.



NB This dance is not to be confused with Margaret Henderson's 1976 ISTD four-couple jig of the same name.

## "In My Opinion"

by Mike Plumley (IB Chair)



**Dr Michael Plumley** was raised in Hertfordshire, London & Oxford and started dancing in King's Lynn where he settled as a Consultant Anaesthetist. After a year or so, he went to an RSCDS group; an offshoot of Norwich Branch, where he really

discovered SCD. Opening Pilling for the first time was a moment of revelation as he could see there were many dances to master and realised there was step practice and technique too! Later, Mike attended RSCDS Winter and Summer Schools. On his International dancing travels, he met members of the RSCDS International Branch, becoming a member in 2007. The IB remains his primary Branch but is a second branch member of RSCDS Milton Keynes. Mike has been visiting SCD groups abroad for 13 years mainly in Europe and has also met many dancers from countries further afield such as Russia, Belarus, Argentina & Japan. Having recently retired and being keen to make more

of a contribution to SCD he joined the IB Committee in 2017 and became the Chair a year later. Mike now finds himself involved in organising and planning IB dancing events.

Mike addresses: the value of having an International Branch

The International Branch's origins officially started in 2004. A number of similarly-minded dancers formed a group to represent dancers living and working abroad, who liked to travel and did not have a local branch to join to give them RSCDS representation. Jean Martin was the RSCDS Chair at the time and once the Branch was fully recognised and its constitution adopted in August 2005, RSCDS Headquarters encouraged HQ members to transfer to the IB thus, increasing their membership.

Susi Mayr was a very active and prominent founder member and was on the Management Board of the RSCDS in 2004/2005, ideally placed to help make this happen. The Susi Mayr Fund (SMF) was established in her memory after her tragic early death in 2012 (see *p6 Reel* 281). The aims of the SMF are to further SCD generally and especially the International aspects, so bringing together dancers and musicians from many different countries to enjoy the sociability of SCD. The IB has grown from 35 Founder Members from 10 countries to 462 members from

28 countries today. It is true that the RSCDS looks after the International aspects of SCD and Branches overseas look to the RSCDS for leadership and guidance but this model started in the days of Empire and is of a 'spoke and hub' type of organisation. The IB has its own relationship with the RSCDS at the centre but the IB has developed direct cross-links with local smaller groups abroad, even if they are not recognised branches or affiliated groups, as well as with individual dancers. The aims of the IB match those of the RSCDS but the way of working is very different. An early user of email, IB started Skype committee meetings in 2014 and has constantly developed its website, ideal for reaching out to people anywhere in the world, as well as publishing a quarterly IB Newsletter. IB committee members travel to meet other dancers abroad and often host informal social events.

The IB continues to organise a variety of international events, seven to date. The 8th IB event will be held with the support of the local Buenos Aires group (see *p12*) during 20-28 September 2020. Looking further ahead we are researching IB events in Northern Italy (2022) and Cape Town (2024). The progressive rise in IB membership must mean that the IB has found its place in the SCD world - visit [www.rscds-ib.org](http://www.rscds-ib.org) to find out more.



## Please hand me the Teapot? by Stephen Webb



Anyone that has read the light-hearted look at SCD, *The Swinging Sporrán* by Andrew Campbell and Roddy Martine published in 1973 will know that on page 43 it describes what a teapot is, in dancing vernacular. It explains that it is a particular movement used in the dance *The Duke and Duchess of Edinburgh* 'so called because of the correct posture which should be taken up by a dancer to resemble a teapot. The left or right hand should be placed on the hip so that it resembles the handle and the other arm elevated to form a spout' this elevated hand is described as a policeman's halt grip. So it is with some surprise that teachers are often heard describing three hands across as teapots but these same dance teachers would be horrified if the dancers actually danced as the 'teapots' described above. Incidentally, the original 1948 description of the above dance simply states 'dance three hands across'.

If we look at the latest RSCDS Manual; cl 6.14 gives no guidance as to how these hands are given.

But as teachers we know that hand positions when given in turning, rights and lefts and hands across are to be given at a comfortable position with arms slightly bent, generally at shoulder height but adjusted to suit the height of the shortest dancer. So all the dancer is left to know is how these hands should be joined and apart from the teapot hold above, which is rarely seen unless reeling, there are three options to choose from and they are:

1. The facing partners (across the set) give right (left) hands in a hand shake hold and the third dancer places their right hand on top. When beginning this figure from the sidelines rather than from the middle often the two diagonal dancers first give hands across with the other dancer's hand placed on top.



2. All three dancers interlink palms in a hook arrangement.



Claw Grip

3. Each dancer, using their right hand in right hands across, takes the wrist of the dancer to their left.



Wrist Grip

In rights and lefts, a hand shake is firmly given and so it is for hands across with the opposite dancer on the diagonal. It follows therefore, that the first hand option above so closely resembles the standard handing to be the most appropriate. In theory as the music is played all hands should meet simultaneously in the middle at the end of bar 1 and in choosing this case the second hand option is best however any dancer with long finger nails can cause this hold to become most uncomfortable and for this reason it is best avoided. The third hand option gives a very firm joining of the three hands and is often seen in English country dancing. In the end the choice one makes should be agreeable to the other two dancers, comfortable to all and easily joined and released in a smooth way when dancing with the music. It is hoped that the above advice goes some way to resolve a moment of awkwardness on the dance floor. And may in due course become the basis for a clause in the Society's Manual on how to dance consistently!

Ed. Those readers that like to delve may wish to read the 1974 Book Review for *The Swinging Sporrán* on p4 Reel 127.

## From Mayhem to Magic by Kay Senior (President CSCDC)



What started as a nightmare, turned out to be the best Midsummer Magic that Chiswick have ever had. The beautiful setting of Chiswick House was denied us at the eleventh hour for financial reasons. With scarcely more than a week to go we had to find another venue! All this when both the Chairman and the Secretary were away on holiday! But you know what they say: 'cometh the hour, cometh the man', this time in the shape of our Vice Chairman, Nick Haimendorf. Nick approached Ealing Council, who said we could dance on Acton Common just by Turnham Green station and opposite the hall where we normally dance. We all breathed a sigh of relief, the weather promised to be good, what could possibly go wrong? Then came the second bombshell, Ealing Council sent an email apologising most profusely, but they had double booked the venue and that a huge funfair was to use the site! We had now only days to find yet a third site. Fate sometimes takes a hand and this third choice

turned out to be the best ever. We were to dance in our usual hall (so much better than dancing on grass), and picnic at half time on the pretty little garden right outside the hall.

The mood on 30 June, from the start, was one of jubilation, a sort of 'war-time spirit', a determination to enjoy ourselves in spite of adversity. You can tell there is a good atmosphere when everybody smiles (big ear to ear grins) and when dancers do lots of extra twirls and hand clapping. It was a very easy programme (designed for grass) and Jim Cook (the magician) walked every dance through briefly so there was no fear or panic in the air and there were very few mistakes even by our beginners. We had great music from Craigievar but I will confess to just doing one round of *Pelorus Jack* loops instead of the four as in *Mairi's Wedding*, but it was the last dance and I was tired and I am 88 but I did stay till the end of the evening. Go home early? No fear of that. No one wanted to miss a minute of this very special evening. It was the success of the year and many, many people said, 'Can we do it like this every year? It was so special.'

Watch *The Reel* next year for our decision on this. Although we would need to limit numbers, we could still call it a Picnic Dance and have the best of both worlds: a good floor for dancing and a much cosier feeling for the picnic!



Joan and Max Blake host Singaporean friends and other guests from left: Lesley and Ian Cartwright-Taylor, Alison Robb, JB, Francine Quastel, Jo-Ann Kennedy, MB, Mark Wimshurst, Terry Jagers and Barbie Wimshurst, outside St Michael & All Angels Church, Turnham Green, (30 June 2019) - see also p12 Reel 306.



## The Dance Deluge

Dear Editorial Team

I was very interested in the article by Keith Rose about dances in diagrams. I think they are wonderful and I am always amazed at how easy it is to understand the dances from them: may we continue to use them, thank you Keith.

Unfortunately, I would take serious issue with Keith about all the new dances being good for dancing and enjoyable! As far as I am concerned they are destroying dancing and are not enjoyable and there seems to be a vocal, small minority that want them while there is a silent majority that do not and they are giving up dancing or already have. I would not want to miss another Drewry, and while he was good for dances, he was not good for dancing overall. What dancing really wants is a modern day Jimmy Shand to bring back members - new dances are certainly not!

So, Keith, please keep up the good work with your diagrams but seek a better management and long term solution for new dances which there will always be!

Regards,

John Carswell, Linlithgow, West Lothian  
(Keith replies in *Reel* 310)

## In Support of Ceilidh Dancing

Dear Editors,

John Carswell letter in *Reel* 308 has hit the nail on the head! I totally agree that ceilidh dancing is the way to start people off. Why does one go dancing? Because it is fun, and it is fun because one is able to do it? Now consider a newcomer faced with rondels, bourrels, diagonal rights and lefts, etc, they are back at school, it is not fun.

Oh, you say they could go to a beginners' class well, yes they could but they then 'norm' within that class and perpetually see themselves as beginners. But, ceilidh dancing is easy, even if one is a non-dancer, no other dancer is too uptight if things go wrong, and all can just give it a go and join in.

What nowadays, is the average age of an RSCDS member south of the border? Even as a Scottish country dancer, ceilidh dancing is reassuring as one can turn up and have confidence in knowing the dances, rather than being confronted with some unheard of dance. At Kincaig in The Highlands, last

year we had a non-dancing family at our table, all of them, mum, dad, young daughter got up for several ceilidh dances and thoroughly enjoyed the evening. I especially like John Carswell's comment about 'classes for life'. Classes are not as appealing as clubs, such as *The Ceilidh Club*, a place for socialising rather than intense concentration. However, personally I like learning new dances but some people do find it unsettling. Then, we come onto *The Eightsome Reel*. Whatever happened to *The Eightsome Reel*, *The Shepherd's Crook*, *The Dashing White Sergeant*? To echo John Carswell, why has the RSCDS ignored/avoided Scottish social dancing for so long? Thank you John, for a logical, well reasoned article. More please.

HISCD in all its forms,

Fiona Reid, Wooburn Green, Bucks.

## Easy Mistake to Make

Dear Editorial Team,

*The Rutland Reel* is a lovely dance, and not difficult, but it does contain a trap. Because the last sixteen bars are danced by the ones and threes, the twos, standing at the top of the set, invariably think it is their turn to start. It is seeing the circle below them that triggers this response. If the new top couple are more experienced or forceful they can unintentionally prevent the original ones from having their second turn.

I have pretty much cured this with our Friday morning group, by proposing that any top couple who start prematurely will be buying the drinks at our pub lunch afterwards!

Fiona Richards, Hornchurch, Havering

## Royal Tartans

Dear Editors,

Further to Stephen's article on tartans in *Reel* 308, as regards the *Balmoral* and *Royal Stewart* tartans, *The Illustrated Encyclopedia of Tartan* states, that Queen Victoria's husband 'Prince Albert devised an entirely new sett for the project (of rebuilding Balmoral Castle) known as *Balmoral*, this tartan is still popular, although its use is restricted solely to members of the royal family'. They do also wear other tartans. The same book states that 'As the sovereign's tartan, *Royal Stewart* can be worn by any of The Queen's subjects.' It is certainly popular with dress hire firms.

Elizabeth Bennett, Worcester Park, Surrey

## Summer Tuesdays - That Floor

Dear Readers,

Summer Tuesdays under the caring leadership of Graham and Caroline Hamilton, began again on 25 June this year and will run on into September and these are eagerly anticipated evening dancing events because to put it bluntly it is SCD at its best with the sort of fun atmosphere sadly, often missing at other events. Why, well with numbers of around 100 dancers going weekly there is a buzz in the hall with all those there, being excited to be dancing with their friends to some of the best musicians around playing great uplifting tunes with well-known but often current, Scottish dances. What is not to like? In a word the floor!

A good dance floor, for SCD, in my opinion should be wooden, have some degree of spring and be free from dirt and stickiness. The floor at Pont Street at present ticks the first two boxes! However, there just seems to be a lamentable problem with its surface. I went to the first ST this year only to be horrified by the appalling state of the floor - I just could not dance with any degree of fluidity which is the essence of flight and movement in SCD. To be frank, I spent half an hour scraping crud (a combination of dirt and a gluey substance) off my shoes afterwards - it was disgusting!

I have been going to dances at Pont Street since the 1970s and the floor surface was never a problem in fact it was always a delight, we all took it for granted. These days when it is like this as a dance floor it is not fit for purpose - it is surely not rocket science to have a clean non-sticky dance floor? Please can we dancers have our beloved dance venue back as we remember it?

Yours disappointedly, but living in hope,  
Stephen Webb, Hemel Hempstead,  
Hertfordshire

PS Update: By the seventh week at Summer Tuesdays the stickiness had all but gone and so, in consequence less crud removed from my soles. I suspect that dancers have been slowly cleaning the floor by dancing on it! Hopefully, with lessons learned there will be no recurrence next year and beyond.

## Two of a Kind - Oops! *Tempus Fugit*



Pat Elliott (left) and Ann Johnson toast each other on their significant zero birthdays at a party evening to celebrate the occasion in Potten End Village Hall on 28 March 2017.

Pat was seventy three days earlier and Ann eighty on the day.

## Complimentary Dance Ticket

For the front cover of *The Reel* it is preferred that a photograph of dancing at a London Branch event is used. Any dancer at such an event that takes a photograph (500Kb min) that is chosen for the front cover only will be entitled to non-transferable free entry, without obligation, to any subsequent dance of their choice within a year of publication (subject to the Branch Committee's discretion). Photos should be sent to [editor@rscdslondon.org.uk](mailto:editor@rscdslondon.org.uk)

## Munro Competition Shoes

for Scottish Country  
and Highland Dancing

from Marie Chaplin  
Garrett

01444 401113

[info@bobbymunrodanceshoes.com](mailto:info@bobbymunrodanceshoes.com)  
[www.bobbymunrodanceshoes.com](http://www.bobbymunrodanceshoes.com)



# Forthcoming Events

**Event Listing in date order - 2019** 7/9 LHC President's Night p17, 7/9 Thistle Wing D/S & Dance p18, 15/9 Mid-Sussex Afternoon Dance p17, 21/9 Ashdown SCDC Dance p18, 21/9 London New Season Dance p1, 28/9 Harrow D/S p18, 28/9 RSCDS BHS Autumn Social p17, 4-6/10 Argyll W/S p18, 5/10 LHC Autumn Dance p17, 12/10 Harrow Autumn Dance p18, 19/10 London D/S & Dance p6, 23/10 London Wednesday Dance p6, 26/10 RSCDS Oxfordshire Annual Ball p18, 27/10 Mid-Sussex Afternoon Class p17, 8-10/11 RSCDS Croydon W/S p17, 9/11 Hayes Ball p17, 9/11 SEHSCDS Annual Ball p17, 10/11 Reading Tea Dance p18, 16/11 BSRC Carnforth Dance p18, 16/11 St John's Annual Ball p18, 17/11 BSRC D/S p18, 17/11 D/S p18, 7/12 LHC Christmas Dance p17, 14/12 London Christmas Dance p6, 14/12 Lucy Clark Christmas Dance p17, 14/12 RSCDS Bournemouth Christmas Dance p17, 28/12 RSCDS BHS Christmas Social p17, 31/12 Thistle Hogmanay Dance p18.

**2020** 3/1 Harrow Annual Ball p18, 11/1 Gerrards Cross Dance Practice p17, 11/1 London Burns' Ceilidh p6, 11/1 RSCDS Cheltenham Annual Ball p18, 18/1 RSCDS Oxfordshire Burns' Dance p18, 19/1 Gerrards Cross Tea Dance p17, 1/2 Reading 70th Anniversary Ball p18, 14-16/2 IOW W/S p17, 15/2 RSCDS Oxfordshire D/S & Dance p18, 19/2 London Winter Wednesday Dance p6, 1/3 London 90th Anniversary Tea Dance p6, 14/3 RSCDS BHS D/S p17, 4/4 Ashdown SCDC Spring Ball p18, 18/4 Argyll D/S p18, 16/5 RSCDS BHS Spring Ball p17.

## ISLE OF WIGHT Weekend School

Friday 14 - Sunday  
16 February 2020

The Shanklin Hotel, Shanklin PO37 6DP

**Teachers: Fred DeMarse and  
Diane Rooney**

**Musicians: Robert Mackay, Ian Muir and  
Judith Muir**

Band for Evening Dances:

**The Craigellachie Band**

Further information from

Catherine Packwood-Bluett, 01980 621322 or

[iowsdwe@hotmail.com](mailto:iowsdwe@hotmail.com)

[www.craigellachie-band.co.uk/](http://www.craigellachie-band.co.uk/)

[isle\\_of\\_wight.html](http://isle_of_wight.html)



## MID SUSSEX SCOTTISH DANCING GROUP

Sunday 15 September 2019

2.00 - 6.00 pm

Rawson Hall, Bolney RH17 5PF

A Challenging Afternoon for Experienced Dancers with **Mervyn Short** when dances from The Imperial Book Volumes 4-5 and other sources will be covered.

Saturday 27 October 2019

2.00 - 6.00 pm

Rawson Hall, Bolney RH17 5PF

Afternoon Course for Beginners and Improvers with **Mervyn Short** and musician **Judith Muir**

Contact [franbramham@hotmail.com](mailto:franbramham@hotmail.com)

## HAYES & DISTRICT SCOTTISH ASSOCIATION Annual Ball

Saturday 9 November 2019

7.30 - 11.30pm

Swakeleys School, Clifton  
Gardens, Hillingdon UB10 0EJ

**Nicol McLaren and the Glencraig Band**  
*Programme:* Joie de Vivre, Maxwell's Rant, The Blue Mess Jacket, The Chequered Court, Polharrow Burn, Midsummer Common, Major Ian Stewart, The Rutland Reel, MacDonald of Keppoch, James Gray, Trip to Timber Ridge, Jean Martin of Aberdeen, Torridon Lassies, Scott Meikle, The Belle of Bon Accord, Inchmickery, Ramadan-ce, Miss Eleanor, The Bees of Maggie Knockater, The Montgomeries' Rant

Tickets £18

Please bring a small plate of savouries -  
desserts and tea/coffee will be provided

Tickets, map and directions from

Margaret Wallace, 01895 633642 or

[margaretw4466@gmail.com](mailto:margaretw4466@gmail.com) or

Ron McCann, 020 8573 3237

[ron\\_mccann@hotmail.com](mailto:ron_mccann@hotmail.com)

[www.hayesscottish.org.uk](http://www.hayesscottish.org.uk)



## RSCDS CROYDON & DISTRICT BRANCH Weekend School

Friday 8 - Sunday 10 November 2019

Cumberland Hotel, Grand Parade,

Eastbourne BN21 3YT

**Teacher: Wendy Mumford**

For further details contact Mary Courtney,

[rscds.croydon.treasurer@gmail.com](mailto:rscds.croydon.treasurer@gmail.com)

[www.rscdscroydon.org.uk](http://www.rscdscroydon.org.uk)

## RSCDS BOURNEMOUTH BRANCH

### Christmas Supper Dance

Saturday 14 December 2019

7.00 - 11.00pm

Corfe Mullen Village Hall,  
George Road, off Wareham Road,  
Corfe Mullen BH21 3UA

**Strathallan**

Tickets: £14

Please bring a contribution to the supper  
table (& wine if you wish, glasses supplied)

Contact Margaret Robson, 01202 698138 or

[margaret.brsdcs@ntlworld.com](mailto:margaret.brsdcs@ntlworld.com)

## RSCDS BERKS/HANTS/SURREY BORDER BRANCH

### Autumn Social

Saturday 28 September 2019

St Mark's Church Hall,

Farnborough GU14 6TU

Dancing to recorded music 7.30 - 10.30pm

Bring and share refreshments

Tickets on the door

### Christmas Social

Saturday 28 December 2019

7.00pm mulled wine

Dancing to recorded music 7.30 - 10.30pm

St Paul's Parish Rooms, Wokingham RG41 1EH

Bring and share refreshments

Tickets on the door

### Day School

Saturday 14 March 2020

Calthorpe Park School, Hitches Lane,  
Fleet GU51 5JA

**Teacher: Rachel Shankland**

**Class Musician: Ken Martlew**

**Musicians' Day School: Luke Brady**

### Branch Spring Ball

Saturday 16 May 2020

7.30 - 11.30pm

Emmbrook School, Wokingham RG41 1JP

**Ian Muir and the Craigellachie Band**

Contact Gordon Anderson, 01420 362530 or

[events@rscds-bhs.org.uk](mailto:events@rscds-bhs.org.uk)

[www.rscds-bhs.org.uk](http://www.rscds-bhs.org.uk)



## LONDON HIGHLAND CLUB

Forthcoming Dances to be held

at St Columba's Church Hall,

Pont Street, London SW1X 0BD

Saturdays: Lower Hall

7.00 - 10.30pm unless otherwise stated

7 September 2019: President's Night

**Colin Dewar Trio**

5 October 2019: Autumn Dance

**Ian Muir (Prestwick)**

7 December 2019: Christmas Dance

**Frank Reid**

Programmes and cribs are on our website:

[www.londonhighlandclub.co.uk](http://www.londonhighlandclub.co.uk)

For further details contact Frank Bennett,

[fb.lhc@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:fb.lhc@blueyonder.co.uk) or 020 8715 3564

Everyone is welcome at all our functions, so

please come along and join us for an

enjoyable evening.



## GERRARDS CROSS SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCING CLUB

### Tea Dance

Sunday 19 January 2020

2.00 - 5.45pm

Gerrards Cross Memorial Centre,  
East Common SL9 7AD

**Ken Martlew and Barbara Manning**

*Programme:* New Year Jig, Trip to Timber  
Ridge, Tribute to the Borders, Sands of  
Morar, Airie Bannan, Ray Milbourne, The Bon  
Viveur, Swiss Lassie, The Flight of the  
Falcon, The College Hornpipe, The Paisley  
Weavers, The Pines of Pitlochry, The Water  
of Leith, Wicked Willy, Friday's Child,  
The Reel of The Royal Scots

Bring and Share Refreshments

Tea, coffee and squash provided

Tickets £8.50 in advance - Limited numbers

### Practice

Saturday 11 January 2020

9.45am - 12.30pm Entry: £5

Garden Room, Memorial Centre SL9 7AD

Contact [gxTeaDance@gmail.com](mailto:gxTeaDance@gmail.com)

or Rose, 07880 842370

[www.gxscottish.org](http://www.gxscottish.org)

## LUCY CLARK SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB

### Christmas Dance

Saturday 14 December 2019

7.00 - 11.00pm

Prestwood Village Hall,

Prestwood, Bucks HP16 0NZ

**Ian Robertson and his SCD Band**

*Programme:* Maxwell's Rant, Itchy Feet,  
Snow White Strathspey, Crossing the Line,  
The Snake Pass, The Gentleman, What's New  
Pussy Cat?, Midnight Oil, The Bon Viveur,  
Linnea's Strathspey, Catch the Wind,  
James Gray, The Minister on the Loch,  
Trip to Timber Ridge, Hot Punch,  
The Moray Rant, The Elephant's Stampede,  
The Montgomeries' Rant

All dances will be fully recapped

Tickets: £18 in advance only

Welcome glass of fizz and buffet included

Contact Ann Higginbottom, 01494 451374 or

[info@lucyclark.org.uk](mailto:info@lucyclark.org.uk)

Further information and cribs available on

[www.lucyclark.org.uk](http://www.lucyclark.org.uk)

Crib also available at

[my.strathspey.org/dd/list/22955](http://my.strathspey.org/dd/list/22955)



## SOUTH EAST HERTS SCDS Annual Ball

Saturday 9 November 2019

7.30 - 11.30pm

Presdales School, Ware SG12 9NX

**Ian Muir (Prestwick)**

Charity raffle in aid of Isabel Hospice

Tickets including buffet and welcome drink

£20 (£18 before 19 October)

£10 for full time students

Contact Ian on 07842 034890

or [sehscds@hotmail.com](mailto:sehscds@hotmail.com)

For programme please see:

[www.sehscottishdance.org](http://www.sehscottishdance.org)





**RSCDS OXFORDSHIRE BRANCH  
Annual Ball**

Saturday 26 October 2019  
7.30 - 11.45pm

Headington School, Oxford OX3 7TD  
Ample free parking and on the London to  
Oxford bus route with stop near school  
**Ian Muir and the Craigellachie Band**  
*Programme:* Maxwell's Rant, Miss Hadden's  
Reel, The Gentleman, The Rutland Reel,  
The Dancing Master, Barbara's Strathspey,  
The Plantation Reel, The Wild Geese, Triple  
Happiness, Shifftin' Bobbins, EH3 7AF,  
The Sands of Morar, The Sailor, Tayport  
Beauty, The Dream Catcher, Swiss Lassie,  
James Gray, City of Belfast, Pelorus Jack,  
The Reel of the 51st Division

Tickets: £20 (spectators £10)

Including supper

Contact Helen Houghton-Carr, 07531 469213  
or [events.rscdsxfordshire@gmail.com](mailto:events.rscdsxfordshire@gmail.com)

Advance notice:

**Burns' Night Supper and Dance**  
18 January 2020, Benson OX10 6LZ  
**Ian Muir and the Craigellachie Band**

Advance notice:

**Day School and Dance**  
15 February 2020, Oxford OX3 7TD  
**Ian Robertson and his SCD Band**



[www.rscdsxfordshire.org.uk](http://www.rscdsxfordshire.org.uk)

**ASHDOWN SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB  
Charity Dance**

Saturday 21 September 2019  
7.00 - 11.00pm

Beacon Academy, East Beeches Road,  
Crowborough, East Sussex TN6 2AS  
**Ian Muir and the Craigellachie Band**  
*Programme:* Hooper's Jig, Catch the Wind,  
Linnea's Strathspey, The Black Mountain  
Reel, The Luckenbooth Brooch,  
The Glengarry Homestead, The Lochalsh  
Reel, City Lights, The Water of Leith,  
Farewell to Balfour Road, The Irish Rover,  
Seton's Ceilidh Band, Alison Rose, Muirland  
Willie, Blooms of Bon Accord, Midsummer  
Common, Band's Choice, Torridon Lassies,  
Nottingham Lace, The Minister on the Loch,  
Staircase in Styria, Father Connelly's Jig

Tickets in advance only please £14  
non dancers/children/under 16 £6

Plus bring a plate of food for the Buffet

Tea/coffee supplied

Contact Michael Copeman, 01892 655971 or  
[copemanmc67@yahoo.com](mailto:copemanmc67@yahoo.com)

Future Event

Saturday 4 April 2020

**Spring Ball**

**Susan MacFadyen and her SD Band**

**DAY SCHOOL FOR UPPER INTERMEDIATE/  
ADVANCED DANCERS**

Sunday 17 November 2019

**Teacher: Mervyn Short Musician: Judith Muir**  
Mannings Heath Village Hall, Sussex RH13 6JU  
Contact [mervynshort@googlemail.com](mailto:mervynshort@googlemail.com)

**RSCDS CHELTENHAM BRANCH  
Annual Ball**

Saturday 11 January 2020  
7.00 - 11.00pm

Pittville Pump Room, East Approach Drive,  
Cheltenham GL52 3JE

**Nicol McLaren and the Glencraig Band**  
Tickets £24

Contact Hilary Foulkes,  
[cheltenhamrscds.tickets@gmail.com](mailto:cheltenhamrscds.tickets@gmail.com) or  
01285 851798  
[www.cheltenhamrscds.btck.co.uk](http://www.cheltenhamrscds.btck.co.uk)

**ARGYLL SCOTTISH DANCING  
GROUP**

**Dancers and Musicians  
Weekend School**

Friday 4 - Sunday 6 October 2019  
Dillington House, Ilminster,  
Somerset TA19 9DT

**Teachers: David Queen (Dancers) and  
Ian Muir (Musicians)**

**Musicians: Robert Mackay and Judith Muir**

For further information and brochure:  
email [dillington@somerset.gov.uk](mailto:dillington@somerset.gov.uk) or visit:  
[www.dillington.co.uk](http://www.dillington.co.uk)

**This course is not considered suitable  
for beginners**

**Day School**

Saturday 18 April 2020

10.30am - 5.15pm

Normandy Village Hall, Manor Fruit Farm,  
Glaziers Lane, Normandy GU3 2DT

**Teachers: Emma Allsop and Eric Finley**

**Musicians: Adam Brady and Jeremy Hill**

For further details and application forms  
contact

Gaynor Curtis, 60 Bishops Wood, St Johns,  
Woking, Surrey GU21 3QB.

Telephone: 01483 721989

Email: [gaynortcurtis@clara.co.uk](mailto:gaynortcurtis@clara.co.uk)

[www.argyllscottishdancinggroup.org.uk](http://www.argyllscottishdancinggroup.org.uk)



**READING ST ANDREW'S SDS  
Tea Dance**

Sunday 10 November 2019  
2.30 - 6.00pm

Thameside School, Harley Road,  
Caversham, Reading RG4 8DB

**Ian Robertson**

Tickets £10

Afternoon tea provided

**70th Anniversary Ball**

Saturday 1 February 2020

7.30 - 11.30pm

Sherry Reception 7.00pm

The Abbey School, Kendrick Road,

Reading RG1 5DZ

**Ian Muir and the Craigellachie Band**

The programme will include some favourite  
dances from earlier years

Contact Margy Trout, [sascdo1@gmail.com](mailto:sascdo1@gmail.com)  
[www.scottishdancingreading.org](http://www.scottishdancingreading.org)



**HARROW & DISTRICT  
CALEDONIAN SOCIETY**

**Day School**

Saturday 28 September 2019

9.30am - 3.00pm

St Alban's Church Hall,

Norwood Drive, North Harrow HA2 7PF

**Teacher: Jane Rose**

**Musician: Adam Brady**

Tickets £22 Adults £10 Juniors

Application forms available from

Sheena Henderson,  
[mail@harrowscottish.org.uk](mailto:mail@harrowscottish.org.uk) 07719 985025

**Autumn Dance**

Saturday 12 October 2019

7.00 - 10.30pm

St Albans Church Hall, North Harrow

HA2 7PF

**Colin Dewar with Bob Parsons**

Tickets £14 including refreshments

Advance booking only

Contact Mick Madigan, 020 8863 5306

[ms\\_madigan@btinternet.com](mailto:ms_madigan@btinternet.com)

Advance notice:

**Annual Ball**

Friday 3 January 2020

Allum Hall, Elstree WD6 3PJ

**Ian Muir and the Craigellachie Band**

[www.harrowscottish.org.uk](http://www.harrowscottish.org.uk)



**BERKHAMSTED STRATHSPEY AND  
REEL CLUB**

**Day School**

Sunday 17 November 2019  
9.30am - 5.30pm

White Hill Centre, White Hill, Chesham,  
Bucks HP5 1AG

4 minutes walk from Chesham Underground  
Station (Metropolitan Line)

**Teachers: Atsuko Clement,**

**Joan Desborough, Lizzy Conder**

**Musicians: Ian Robertson, Ken Martlew,  
Calum Mitchell**

Tickets: Whole day £25/Morning or afternoon  
£14. Afternoon social dance included  
(advance booking only)

Classes for Elementary, Intermediate and  
Advanced Dancers

Application forms:

Contact Mike Aylward, 11 Chipperfield Road,  
Bovingdon, Herts HP3 0JN

[dayschool@berkhamstedreelclub.org](mailto:dayschool@berkhamstedreelclub.org) or  
01442 832061

**Carnforth Collection Evening Dance**

(Dances devised by Derek Haynes)

Saturday 16 November 2019

7.30 - 10.30pm

Bovingdon Memorial Hall, High Street,  
Bovingdon HP3 0HN

**Ian Robertson Band**

Suitable for experienced dancers

Tickets: £10

Bring and share supper

Please see website for more details of this  
and other BSRC events

[www.berkhamstedreelclub.org](http://www.berkhamstedreelclub.org)

**ST JOHN'S SCOTTISH COUNTRY  
DANCING CLUB**

**Annual Ball**

Saturday 16 November 2019

7.30 - 11.30pm

Welcome Drink

7.00 for 7.30pm start

Emmbrook School, Wokingham RG41 1JP

**Strathallan**

*Programme:* To be announced

September 2019, visit

[www.warmweb.co.uk/stjohnssdc/ball.htm](http://www.warmweb.co.uk/stjohnssdc/ball.htm)

No bar but soft drinks will be provided -  
and wine with supper

Tickets £24 available from Louise Peddie,

01276 34648 or Rich Lavis, 07921 654094

[tickets.stjohns.scdc@gmail.com](mailto:tickets.stjohns.scdc@gmail.com)

Payment by cheque or bank transfer



**THISTLE CLUB**

**Musicians' Workshop,**

**Day School and Dance**

Saturday 7 September 2019

10.30am - 4.30pm

Wing Village Hall, Wing LU7 0NN

**Teacher: Zsófia József**

**Musician: Phil Jones**

**Musicians' Workshop Tutor: Iain MacPhail**

Tickets: £24 whole day, £8 morning or

afternoon, £10 evening dance

Evening dance 7.30 - 10.30pm

**Iain MacPhail and Workshop Musicians**

*Programme:* The Hazel Tree, Moment of  
Truth, Miss Johnstone of Ardrrossan,  
Jennifer's Jig, The Byron Strathspey,  
Gavin's Reel, Miss Eleanor, Kamo Karousel,  
The Irish Rover, The Raven's Dance,  
Maxwell's Rant, Scotch Mist, Major Ian  
Stewart, Crossing the Line, Kilkenny Castle,  
The Dancing Master, Mrs MacPherson of  
Inveran

Bring your own lunch. Tea, coffee, juice  
provided. Bring & Share supper for the Dance

**Hogmanay Dance**

31 December 2019

Further details in Reel 310

Contact Jan Jones, 07877 153259 or  
[jange@verybusy.co.uk](mailto:jange@verybusy.co.uk) [www.thistleclub.co.uk](http://www.thistleclub.co.uk)



## Calling all dancers using St Columba's Church!

You will notice a new feature in the ground floor entrance area: a defibrillator.

St Columba's Dancers, who meet on Mondays at the church, have presented it in memory of Valerie Twining. We hope that no one needs to use a defibrillator, but it is good to know that it is there.

Ed: See related letter p12 Reel 297.

### Today's Scots and other things

Had Sheridan's Mrs Malaprop been using Scots in conversation she might well have confused the nouns *tattie* with a *tattie-bogle* or a *cludgie* with a *cloggie*. The mind boggles!

And Carol Kirkwood can often be heard describing the weather as *dreich*.

*Tattie*/potato, *tattie-bogle*/scarecrow, *cludgie*/lavatory, *cloggie*/bowl, *dreich*/miserable.

## The Reel Advertising Rates

In black and white £6 per column cm, in colour £8.50 per column cm (three columns per page). A listing in the Other SCD Organisations section costs £30 per annum pro rata. All advertisers receive a complimentary copy of *The Reel*. Send adverts for the Forthcoming Events pages to Meryl at [danceads@rscdslondon.org.uk](mailto:danceads@rscdslondon.org.uk)

Other adverts and enquiries on pricing to the Business Editor Jeff Robertson at [businesseditor@rscdslondon.org.uk](mailto:businesseditor@rscdslondon.org.uk)

## Scottish DANCE SHOES



from £29.50



from £25.50

Scottish country dance pumps and ghillies, with soft leather uppers, black suede sole & a padded insole for extra comfort!

Scottish Dance Shoe Company, 14 Hallmark Trading Estate  
Fourth Way, Wembley, HA9 0LB. T: 0208 902 0150  
E: [sales@scottishdanceshoe.co.uk](mailto:sales@scottishdanceshoe.co.uk)  
W: [www.scottishdanceshoe.co.uk](http://www.scottishdanceshoe.co.uk)

Congratulations go to Susan Koffler-Sluijter, London dancer from Thame, in passing Units 2 & 3 at St Andrews Summer School this year. (See Susan at far right in photo 12 p11).

## Other Scottish Country Dance Organisations

To update your information in Other Scottish Country Dance Organisations contact [editor@rscdslondon.org.uk](mailto:editor@rscdslondon.org.uk)

If you require your information to also be changed in the SE Classes Listing on our website please contact Jan Collings [seclasses@rscdslondon.org.uk](mailto:seclasses@rscdslondon.org.uk) or call on 07803 923036.

Payment of £30 is due for Reels 308-311, and due again in May 2020 for Reels 312-315. If you wish to make payment by bank transfer or cancel your advert, please contact [treasurer@rscdslondon.org.uk](mailto:treasurer@rscdslondon.org.uk)

ABINGDON SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB Dancing most Mondays, 7.45-10.00pm, Sept-June at Northcourt Centre, Abingdon, nr Oxford. All welcome. Details: Morag Brown, 38 The Holt, Abingdon, OX14 2DR, [abingdonscdc@gmail.com](mailto:abingdonscdc@gmail.com) or [www.abingdonscdc.wordpress.com](http://www.abingdonscdc.wordpress.com)

ADDLESTONE & DISTRICT SCOTTISH SOCIETY Meets Wednesdays 8.15-10.15pm Sept-May at St Mary's Church Hall, Church Road, Byfleet KT14 7NF. Details: Val Clack, 01932 845869 or [www.addlestonescottish.org.uk](http://www.addlestonescottish.org.uk)

BERKHAMSTED STRATHSPEY & REEL CLUB Meets in Potten End Village Hall, HP4 2QG. Social dancing: Tuesdays 8.15pm Sept-May, Sat. gardens June/July. Classes: Intermediate and Advanced Mondays 8.00pm, Beginners Tuesdays 8.15pm. Details: Dawn Dorman, Hill End Farm, Gorbamby, St Albans, Herts AL3 6AR, 07710 460623 or [www.berkhamstedreelclub.org](http://www.berkhamstedreelclub.org)

BERKS/HANTS/SURREY BORDER BRANCH RSCDS Every Wednesday Sept-May, 8.00-10.00pm St Mary's Church Hall, Park Road, Camberley, Surrey GU15 2SR Teacher: Mervyn Short. Beginners: Five Wednesdays in October 8.15-9.15pm St Mary's (as above). Monday Advanced class: Fourteen Mondays Sept-April, September 8.00pm at St Mary's, then 8.15-10.15pm at St Sebastian's Memorial Hall, Nine Mile Ride, Wokingham Without RG40 3BA. Details: Alex Duncan, 01932 241615 or [www.rscds-bhs.org.uk](http://www.rscds-bhs.org.uk)

BOURNEMOUTH BRANCH RSCDS Meets every Friday at Kinson Community Centre, Pelham's Park, Millhams Rd., Kinson, Bournemouth, BH10 7LH 7.30-9.30pm. Alternate Wednesday Technique class, by invitation. Details: Margaret Robson, 24 Upper Golf Links Road, Broadstone, Dorset BH18 8BX, 01202 698138 or [margaret.brs@ntlworld.com](mailto:margaret.brs@ntlworld.com)

BRIGHTON BRANCH RSCDS Classes for beginners, intermediate and advanced, country and highland, adults and children. Details: Rod Burrows, 01903 783053 or [chair@rscds-brighton.org.uk](mailto:chair@rscds-brighton.org.uk) or [www.rscds-brighton.org.uk](http://www.rscds-brighton.org.uk)

BRIGHTON & HOVE SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB Meets Thursdays 7.45-10.15pm at Moulsecoomb Hall, Brighton. Details: Carol Catterall, 01273 564963 or [www.bhscdc.org.uk](http://www.bhscdc.org.uk)

CAMBERLEY REEL CLUB Dancing every Tuesday 8.00pm at St Paul's Church Hall, Church Hill, Camberley. Details: Jackie Cresswell, 01252 616289 or [info@camberleyreelclub.org.uk](mailto:info@camberleyreelclub.org.uk)

CAMBRIDGE SCOTTISH SOCIETY Scottish country dancing and other events. Dance Circle meets every Thursday 8.00pm from Sept-June. Details: Rachel Schicker, 01223 364557 or [www.camscotsoc.org.uk](http://www.camscotsoc.org.uk)

CHELTHENHAM BRANCH RSCDS Advanced Technique class Monday 7.30-9.30pm St Luke's Hall, Cheltenham GL53 7HP. General class Thursday 7.15-9.15pm Bettridge School, Cheltenham GL51 3AT. Beginners' class Monday 7.45-9.45pm Reddings Community Centre, Cheltenham GL51 6RF. Details: Lesley Taylor, 07712 578622 [cheltscdssec@gmail.com](mailto:cheltscdssec@gmail.com) or [www.cheltenhamrscds.btck.co.uk](http://www.cheltenhamrscds.btck.co.uk)

CHELTHENHAM SCOTTISH SOCIETY Dancing Friday nights 7.30-10.00pm at St Andrew's UR Church, Montpellier Street, Cheltenham GL50 1SP. Details: John Marshall, [duracellbunney@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:duracellbunney@tiscali.co.uk) [www.cheltenhamscottishsociety.btck.co.uk](http://www.cheltenhamscottishsociety.btck.co.uk) [www.jockjigging.btck.co.uk](http://www.jockjigging.btck.co.uk)

CHISWICK SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB Meets on Sundays 6.00-9.15pm, Sept-June, in the Upper Hall at St Michael & All Angels Church, corner of Woodstock Road and Priory Avenue, London W4 1TX (turn right out of Turnham Green tube station, 70 yards). Details: [www.chiswickscottish.org.uk](http://www.chiswickscottish.org.uk) or Evelyn Norman, 020 8641 5877 or [secretary@chiswickscottish.org.uk](mailto:secretary@chiswickscottish.org.uk)

CROYDON & DISTRICT BRANCH Branch class in Coulsdon: General, incl. Beginners with technique Fridays 7.30 -10.00pm Coulsdon Methodist Church, Brighton Road, Coulsdon CR5 2BE. Details: Mary Courtney, 020 8651 0704 or [www.rscdscroydon.org.uk](http://www.rscdscroydon.org.uk)

EPPING FOREST SCOTTISH ASSOCIATION Club nights: Mondays (all year) 8.00-10.00pm at Christchurch Parish Hall, Wanstead Place, Wanstead E11 7SW; Thursdays (all year) 8.00-10.00pm at St John's Parish Hall, High Road, Buckhurst Hill, IG9 5RX. Details: Angela Ross, 020 8504 3376 or [angelaross87@hotmail.com](mailto:angelaross87@hotmail.com) or [www.efsa.org.uk](http://www.efsa.org.uk)

EPSOM & DISTRICT CALEDONIAN ASSOCIATION General dancing Mondays, 7.30-10.00pm, Tweddle Hall, St Andrew's URC, Northey Avenue, Cheam, SM2 7HF. Teacher: Pauline Cashmore, 020 8686 9362 Details: Dorothy Pearson, 01737 551724

FARNHAM SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCING CLUB Dancing every Tuesday at 8pm, Sept-end of April at Memorial Hall, Babbs Mead, Farnham, Surrey GU9 7EE. Details: Anne Lester 01252 782927 or [lesteranne@gmail.com](mailto:lesteranne@gmail.com) or [www.fscdc.co.uk](http://www.fscdc.co.uk)

FLEET SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE SOCIETY Dance in Church Crookham Memorial Hall in Hampshire on alternate Saturdays from 7.30-10.00pm, Sept-May. Details: Shirley Ferguson 01276 501952 or [fergusonshirley7@gmail.com](mailto:fergusonshirley7@gmail.com) or [fleet.rscds-bhs.org.uk](http://fleet.rscds-bhs.org.uk)

GERRARDS CROSS SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB Meets at Memorial Centre, East Common Road, Gerrards Cross SL9 7AD on Tuesdays from Sept-June. 7.30-10.00pm Visitors and Beginners welcome. Details: Suzanne Todd, 01923 283730 or [info@gxscottish.org](mailto:info@gxscottish.org) or [www.gxscottish.org](http://www.gxscottish.org)



# Other Scottish Country Dance Organisations

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**GREENFORD AND DISTRICT CALEDONIAN ASSOC.** Meet at the British Legion Hall, Oldfield Lane, Greenford. Visitors welcome. Tuesdays 8.00-10.00pm. Details: Janet MacPhail 020 8560 7670 or [enquiries@greenfordcaledonian.net](mailto:enquiries@greenfordcaledonian.net)

**GUILDFORD SCDC** Meets at Onslow Village Hall, Wilderness Rd, Guildford, GU2 7QR most Mondays at 8.00pm from Sept-June. Details: 01483 456091 or [www.gscdc.org.uk](http://www.gscdc.org.uk)

**HARPENDEN SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCING CLUB** Meets every Tuesday at 8.00pm at Lourdes Hall, Southdown Road, Harpenden. Details: Val Owens, 29 Palfrey Close, St Albans, Herts AL3 5RE, 01727 863870 or [HSCDC.org.uk](http://HSCDC.org.uk)

**HARROW & DISTRICT CALEDONIAN SOCIETY** Classes Wednesdays 8.15-10.15pm, St Albans Church Hall, Norwood Drive (off The Ridgeway), North Harrow. Also a variety of other activities. Details: Sheena Henderson, [mail@harrowscottish.org.uk](mailto:mail@harrowscottish.org.uk) or 07719 985025 or [www.harrowscottish.org.uk](http://www.harrowscottish.org.uk)

**HAYES & DISTRICT SCOTTISH ASSOCIATION** Meets Fridays 8.00-10.00pm, Sept-July in Hayes, Middx. Beginners and experienced dancers welcome. Details: Margaret Wallace, 01895 633642 or [www.hayesscottish.org.uk](http://www.hayesscottish.org.uk)

**HERTSMERE REEL CLUB** Monthly dances on third Saturday (exc. Aug & Sept) 7.30-11.00pm, Tilbury Hall (URC), Darkes Lane, Potters Bar EN6 1BZ. Details: Margaret King, 0208 440 3236 or [margaret.king4@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:margaret.king4@hotmail.co.uk)

**JERSEY CALEDONIA SCD GROUP** Details: Joy Carry, Les Arbres, Rue des Cateaux, Trinity, JE3 5HB, 01534 862205 or [jcchanjoy97@gmail.com](mailto:jcchanjoy97@gmail.com) Alan Nicolle, 01534 484375 or [alan.nicolle88@gmail.com](mailto:alan.nicolle88@gmail.com) or Brenda Gale, 01534 862357 or [scottishcountrydancingchannelislands.blogspot.com](http://scottishcountrydancingchannelislands.blogspot.com)

**LONDON HIGHLAND CLUB** Meets regularly at St Columba's, Pont Street, London SW1X 0BD. Details: Frank Bennett, 020 8715 3564 or [www.londonhighlandclub.co.uk](http://www.londonhighlandclub.co.uk)

**LUCY CLARK SCD CLUB** Meets Thursdays at the Wendover Memorial Hall, Wharf Road, Wendover HP22 6HF. Beginners class 7.00-8.00pm, Social Dancing 8.00-10.00pm. Details: Liz Mitchell, 07947 000368 or [info@lucyclark.org.uk](mailto:info@lucyclark.org.uk) or [www.lucyclark.org.uk](http://www.lucyclark.org.uk)

**MAIDENHEAD SCOTTISH DANCING CLUB** Meets every Tuesday 8.00pm at St Piran's School, Gringer Hill, Maidenhead, Berks SL6 7LZ. Last Tuesday in the month is Social Dancing Evening. Details: Jane Courtier, 16 Ostler Gate, Maidenhead, Berks SL6 6SG, 01628 628372 or [maidenheadscottishdancing.org.uk](http://maidenheadscottishdancing.org.uk)

**MAIDSTONE (COBTREE) SCD GROUP** Meets every Wednesday 7.30-10.00pm at The Grove Green Community Hall, Maidstone. Details: Dick Barford, 55 Northumberland Road, Maidstone ME25 7JG, 01622 685984

**MEDWAY AND DISTRICT CALEDONIAN ASSOCIATION** Dancing Mondays Bredhurst Village Hall, 1.30-3.45pm; Tuesdays and Thursdays St Mary's Island Community Centre, 8.00-10.00pm. Beginners welcome at all. Details: Lyn Sutton-Jones, 07831 154038 and [www.medwaycaledonians.co.uk](http://www.medwaycaledonians.co.uk)

**MID SUSSEX SCOTTISH DANCING GROUP** Mixed Ability Group meets every Tuesday in Hurstpierpoint Village Centre BN6 9UY 7.45-10.30pm. Details: [franbramham@hotmail.com](mailto:franbramham@hotmail.com)

**MILTON KEYNES BRANCH RSCDS** Mixed ability class Mondays 8.00-10.00pm. Bradwell Village Hall, Milton Keynes. Details: Jan Jones, 52 Aintree Close, Bletchley, Milton Keynes MK3 5LP, 01908 378730 or [jange@verybusy.co.uk](mailto:jange@verybusy.co.uk)

**NORWICH RSCDS** Dancing on Mondays from Sept-May/June at the Dance & Drama Studio, Sewell Park College, Constitution Hill, Norwich NR3 4BX. Beginners from 7.00-8.15pm and general dancing 8.20-9.30pm. Details: Sue Petty on 01603 741639 or [secretary@rscds-norwich.org.uk](mailto:secretary@rscds-norwich.org.uk)

**ORPINGTON & DISTRICT CALEDONIAN SOCIETY** Dancing every Thursday 8.00-10.15pm at Petts Wood Memorial Hall. Beginners' /Improvers' Class every Monday 8.00-10.15pm at St Pauls, Crofton Road, Orpington. Details: Hadyn Davies, 020 8658 9188 or [hadyndavies@gmail.com](mailto:hadyndavies@gmail.com) or [www.orpingtonscottishdancing.com](http://www.orpingtonscottishdancing.com)

**OXFORDSHIRE BRANCH RSCDS** Dancing on Thursdays throughout the year in Oxford. Details: Christine Jeffery 01844 278242 or [christinej201@hotmail.com](mailto:christinej201@hotmail.com) or [www.rscdsxfordshire.org.uk](http://www.rscdsxfordshire.org.uk)

**READING ST ANDREW'S SCOTTISH DANCING SOCIETY** Dancing at St Andrew's URC, London Road, Reading, RG1 5BD from 8.00-10.00pm, Sept-May, Tuesdays (elementary), Wednesdays (general), 1st & 2nd Thursdays of each month (advanced). Details: Duncan Barnett, Flat 4, 8 Western Elms Avenue, Reading RG30 2AN 0118 956 9289 [dbarnet@waitrose.com](mailto:dbarnet@waitrose.com) or [www.scottishdancingreading.org](http://www.scottishdancingreading.org)

**REIGATE SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB** Meets most Mondays 8.15-10.15pm, Sept-May at the Redhill Methodist Church Hall, Gloucester Road, Redhill, Surrey RH1 1BP. Details: Wendy Mitton, 01737 766244 or [wmitton517@btinternet.com](mailto:wmitton517@btinternet.com) or [www.reigatescottish.org.uk](http://www.reigatescottish.org.uk)

**RICHMOND CALEDONIAN SOCIETY** Meets at the Oddfellows Hall, Parkshot, Richmond, every Wednesday evening at 8.00pm from mid-Sept. to mid-June. Details: [www.richmondcaledonian.co.uk](http://www.richmondcaledonian.co.uk) or 020 8878 3445

**SANDERSTEAD URC SCOTTISH DANCE GROUP** Dancing Tues 8.00pm at Sanderstead URC Hall, Sanderstead Hill, S. Croydon. Details: Graeme Wood, 01883 627797 or [gwood@gna.cc](mailto:gwood@gna.cc)

**ST COLUMBA'S CHURCH OF SCOTLAND**, Pont Street, London SW1X 0BD St Columba's Dancers meet most Mondays from Oct to May, 7.15-10.00pm. Admission free except for Band Nights when a charge will be made. Details: Valerie Strachan, 020 8693 5355 or [valeriestrachan@btinternet.com](mailto:valeriestrachan@btinternet.com) or [www.stcolumbasdancers.org](http://www.stcolumbasdancers.org)

**ST JOHN'S SDC**, WOKINGHAM Meet every Thurs 8.00-10.15pm Sept-June at St Sebastian's Hall, Nine Mile Ride, Wokingham. All standards welcome. Details: Kate Thomson, 0118 9860681 [sec.stjohns.scdc@gmail.com](mailto:sec.stjohns.scdc@gmail.com) Also Children's Class Sats 9.30-11.00am at the Parish Hall, Crowthorne. Details: Deborah Draffin, 01344 776831

**SCOTTISH ASSOCIATION FOR WALLINGTON, CARSHALTON & DISTRICT** Hold weekly social dance on Thursday evenings from 8.00-10.00pm at Collingwood School, Springfield Road, Wallington SM6 0BD. Details: Maggie Westley, 020 8647 9899 or 07956 937157 or [westley.maggie14@gmail.com](mailto:westley.maggie14@gmail.com)

**SIDCUP & DISTRICT CALEDONIAN ASSOCIATION** Dancing on Wednesdays from 8.00-10.15pm throughout the year at Hurst Community Centre, Hurst Road, Bexley, Kent. Details: Jenny Gavin, 48 Eastbrook Road, Blackheath SE3 8BT, 020 8856 4522

**SOUTH EAST ESSEX SCOTTISH SOCIETY** Dancing Fridays, 7.30-10.15pm, St Peter's Church Hall, Eastbourne Grove, Southend (near hospital). Tuition 7.30-9.00pm. Details: Graham Easton, 01702 587808 or [graham.easton@btinternet.com](mailto:graham.easton@btinternet.com) or [www.seess.org.uk](http://www.seess.org.uk)

**SOUTH EAST HERTS SCDS** Classes for all standards, in Hertford, Tuesdays in term time. Monthly dances Sept-June, in Ware, usually second Friday. Sunday afternoon Family Dances once a term. Details: Douglas, 07980 405152 or [sehscds@hotmail.com](mailto:sehscds@hotmail.com) or see [www.sehscottishdance.org/news](http://www.sehscottishdance.org/news)

**SURBITON & DISTRICT CALEDONIAN SOCIETY** Dancing every Thursday at 8.00pm from Sept-June at St Mark's Church Hall, Church Hill Road, Surbiton. Details: David Horwill, 32 Wolsey Road, Sunbury-on-Thames, Middx TW16 7TY or [www.surbitoncaledonian.co.uk](http://www.surbitoncaledonian.co.uk)

**TUNBRIDGE WELLS BRANCH RSCDS** Beginners/intermediate classes on Tues 8.00-10.00pm and advanced classes Thurs 8.00-10.00pm at St Augustine's School, Wilman Rd, Tunbridge Wells, TN4 9AL. Details: George Daly, 1 Broadwater Rise, Tunbridge Wells TN2 5UE, 01892 534512 or [www.rscdstunbridgewells.org.uk](http://www.rscdstunbridgewells.org.uk)

**WATFORD & WEST HERTS SCOTTISH SOCIETY** Beginners/Improvers Class at Nascot Wood Recital Hall, Nascot Wood Road, Watford WD17 4YS Mondays from 8.00-9.30pm and General Class at All Saints' Church, The Green, Croxley Green, Rickmansworth WD3 3HJ Thursdays from 8.00-10.00pm. Details: Stuart Kreloff, 60 Tunnel Wood Road, Watford WD17 4GE, 01923 492475 or [reel@watfordscottish.org.uk](mailto:reel@watfordscottish.org.uk)

**WELWYN GARDEN CITY SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB** Meets Wednesdays 8.00-10.00pm Sept-June at Lemsford Hall, Lemsford Village, Welwyn Garden City. All welcome. Details: Douglas Wood, 01582 469928 or [welwyn.scdc@uwclub.net](mailto:welwyn.scdc@uwclub.net) or [www.sehscottishdance.org/Welwyn](http://www.sehscottishdance.org/Welwyn)

**WEMBLEY & DISTRICT SCOTTISH ASSOCIATION** Dance Class Mondays 8.00pm. The Church of the Ascension, The Avenue, Wembley, Middx. Details: Mrs Caroline Hamilton, 31 Boundary Road, Eastcote, Pinner, Middlesex HA5 1PW, 0208 866 2378 or [info@wdsa.co.uk](mailto:info@wdsa.co.uk)

**WEYMOUTH SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCERS** (Formerly South Dorset Caledonian Society) Dancing at St Edmund's Church Hall, Lanehouse Rocks Road, Weymouth, Dorset, Wednesday, 7.30-10.00pm. Details: Miss Valerie Scriven, 13 Fenway Close, Dorchester, Dorset DT1 1PQ, 01305 265177

**WINCHESTER BRANCH RSCDS** Classes Tuesdays 8.00-10.00pm. Club nights 1st and 3rd Wednesdays 8.00-10.00pm. Both evenings at St Peter's School, Oliver's Battery Rd North, Winchester. Details: Wendy Mumford (teacher), 20 Blendon Drive, Andover SP10 3NQ, 01264 363293 or [wendy@mumford.com](mailto:wendy@mumford.com)

**WITHAM & DISTRICT CALEDONIAN SOCIETY** Dancing every Wednesday 8.00-10.00pm. The Centre, UR Church, Witham, Essex. Details: Alex Daniel, 01621 855548 or [alexsdaniel@aol.com](mailto:alexsdaniel@aol.com)

## Credits

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